

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 27th November 1948.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Government offices shifted to the mufassal.

* 153 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any of the Government offices which were shifted to places outside Madras in 1942 are still outside Madras;

(b) if so (i) which offices, (ii) their present places of location, (iii) the reasons for keeping them still away from the City; and

(c) whether the Principal of the Police Training School, Vellore, had recommended that the Finger Print Bureau should be shifted back to Madras for the better working of the Bureau?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier) :—“(a) Yes.

“(b) The information is given below :—

- | (1) | (2) | (3) |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| (1) Office of the Superintendent of Stationery. | Quindy | .. Its original abode at First Line Beach is now under the occupation of the Civil Supplies Department. The Collector of Madras is examining the question of getting back the Stationery Office to its old premises. |
| (2) Madras Office. | Record Chittoor | .. Due to the non-availability of suitable accommodation for offices now located in the Madras Record Office buildings at Egmore, the Collector of Madras has been asked to take vigorous steps to see that accommodation is secured for the offices now occupying the Madras Record Office buildings in Egmore so that the Madras Record Office may be brought back to Madras as soon as practicable. |
| (3) Serum Institute of Animal Husbandry Department. | Ranipet, North Arcot district. | .. This was originally shifted to Coimbatore during the evacuation of the City in 1942. Since then it has been shifted permanently to Ranipet, North Arcot district, when the Meat Dehydration Factory became available. There were no permanent buildings for the Serum Institute at Madras and therefore when the Meat Dehydration Factory became available it was purchased from the Government of India. |

[27th November 1948]

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| (1) | (2) | (3) |
| (4) Madras Finger Vellore
Print Bureau. | .. | For administrative reasons the Govern-
ment have decided to retain the
Bureau at Vellore so long as the Police
Training School remains there. The
Finger Print Bureau and the Police
Training School can be brought back
to Madras when suitable accom-
modation becomes available. |

“(c) No.”

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“ I observe from the answer that the main reason why offices are away from the headquarters is the non-availability of premises. May I ask why the Government are not using their powers to requisition under the Rent Control Order suitable premises? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ It is, I suggest, not an urgent matter. The offices now located do function in their new places satisfactorily. I do not think any urgent action to displace and demand houses under emergency regulations arise.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I ask if the Government have considered the desirability of shifting more offices to the mufassal in view of acute housing accommodation in the City? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ The matter is under the consideration of the Government. The Government have absolutely no information in the matter and they are trying to allocate the offices as are available both in the interest of public and the officers concerned. Whether it will function satisfactorily in Madras or in other places depends upon the availability of buildings. So the Government are considering the question and when suitable buildings become available these offices will be transferred.”

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“ Is it not better to have all Provincial Offices in Madras having regard to the location of the City in the centre of the Province as it is now situated? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ It does not seem absolutely necessary.”

Issue of wholesale and retail licences to the old cloth dealers in Chingleput.

* 152-A Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have issued instructions to the Collector of Chingleput district to issue wholesale and retail licences for all old cloth dealers in this district;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of these dealers have been found fault with and have been fined or suspended; and

(c) whether it is a fact that some of these dealers who have misbehaved have already been given licences?

27th November 1948]

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ In the original instructions issued by the Government for the guidance of Collectors, it was stated that the following points should be considered in the matter of selection of dealers :—

- (1) Whether the applicant was guilty of any grave violations of the previous control orders, such as, sale at high prices, refusal to sell, non-issue of bills, etc.
- (2) Whether there were general complaints against him. Such applications were to be excluded if the Collector was satisfied that the dealer was an undesirable.
- (3) Whether the applicant was guilty of strictly technical offences, such as, non-maintenance of registers, etc. Such applicants were to be considered only if there were no sufficient suitable applicants.

Several representations were received to the effect that dealers, who were long in the cloth and yarn business, were not selected in the present scheme of distribution of cloth and yarn in view of convictions for minor offences during the previous control and even in cases where the offences were of a technical or trivial nature. The Government after considering the question found that dealers who were acquitted and even those who were discharged had been indiscriminately excluded for consideration. They, therefore, decided that, that the following principles should be followed in the selection of old dealers :—

- (1) All those who had a licence at the time of last control should be eligible for selection except those who were guilty of grave violations of the previous control orders such as—
 - (i) sale at prices higher than the controlled prices;
 - (ii) keeping of stocks in unlicensed premises; and
 - (iii) non-issue of bills.
- (2) No serious view should be taken of mere warnings, convictions for petty offences and suspension of licences.
- (3) All cases of withdrawal of prosecutions, discharges or acquittal should not be viewed seriously.

The Government believed that the application of these principles by the Collectors would make way for deserving old wholesalers and retailers who were left out. They, therefore, instructed all Collectors including the Collector of Chingleput to fill up all existing vacancies by selecting old dealers who became so eligible, in preference to newcomers. No other instructions have been issued to the Collector of Chingleput. These instructions, it will be seen, never contemplated the licensing of old dealers guilty of serious offences; nor did

[27th November 1948]

they permit the licensing of dealers whom the Collector considered undesirable. If the Collector of Chingleput has licensed any such dealer he is clearly in the wrong, but the Government have no information."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it in the interests of the public that those dealers who have misbehaved should be given licence? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Government do not propose to punish a man in advance not knowing what offences had been committed. Unless we have something definite against a particular man it is not possible to say that he must be excluded for no ground understandable."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" I do not want anybody to be punished in advance. I do not know how he classifies as trivial offences and serious offences."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" No statement now. Question if any, may be put."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know whether Government have issued any instructions not to grant licences for dealing in cloth or yarn to the Members of this House or the Assembly? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" No."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Are they not excluded? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" They are not excluded."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Is it the policy of the Government not to give to the members? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It must be sufficiently clear what the policy is. If a member had been doing cloth business already I do not see why he should be excluded simply because he is a member of this House."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Are there any members who were doing cloth business under licence? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I do not have any information and I do not think it worthwhile to collect the information."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Government call for the information? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I suggest that there is no purpose served."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Government consider that Congressmen should not be given licences? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The policy of Government has been stated and I have nothing more to add than what I have stated. There is no question of preferring

27th November 1948]

a particular class or group of people. It is the Collector that has been empowered to select the dealers. If he feels that a particular section or class of people in view of their past connexion, are fit to do business efficiently then it does not preclude him from selecting them."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it the policy of the Government to engage only dealers in urban areas calling upon the villagers to travel long distances to purchase cloth? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Only with a view to solving such difficulties that may possibly arise the Collectors of the districts have been given full discretion in regard to the location of the shops as they think best."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Have the Government instructed the Collectors that those who have been barred on account of misconduct in carrying on their business should not be granted licences? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" As I have just stated, Sir, there were cases where certain people were excluded on the ground that some warning was administered to them under the previous control orders but they were otherwise thought fit. Now the Collectors have been advised, if they are satisfied that the previous warning was for something trivial they could ignore it and grant a licence."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Has the Collector of Chingleput district recommended any cases other than the cases which were recommended by the Committee unanimously? I am a Member of the Committee and I understand that there was a unanimous recommendation of the Committee and the Collector of Chingleput has deviated from that unanimous recommendation and made separate recommendations."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I may correct the impression of the hon. Member, Sir. The Committee is only advisory. The Collector is the person who is responsible for licensing and he has got the power to deviate if he likes."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the resolutions passed by the Andhra and Tamilnad Congress Committees that Congress Members of the Legislature should not apply for or accept licences for dealing in controlled commodities? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It is exactly the business of the Congress Committee concerned to look into these matters and not that of the Government."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if any Collector has committed indiscretions and if they are brought to the notice of the Government, whether they will set them right? "

[27th November 1948]

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"That is being done, Sir."

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI:—"Are warnings which were given considered as punishments, Sir?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The Hon. Minister has already answered the question."

SRI M. K. SUNDARAMA AYYAR:—"பழைய லைசென்ஸ் ஆட்களுக்கு இப்பொழுது லைசென்ஸ் மறுக்கப்பட்டு புதிய வியாபாரிகளுக்கு லைசென்ஸ் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருப்பது சரியா?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I understand the question is why old people who were there have been thrown out and new people have been given licences in Madura மதுரையில் தானே? (to the hon. Member) (Sri Sundarama Ayyar: "ஆமாம்")."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"As I have already stated, Sir, the Government have been trying their best to see that as many of the old dealers as have no bad reputation are absorbed. The Collectors have been given discretion, as I have said, Sir, by a modified order recently issued that if there are such hard cases they could do justice."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Are the Government aware, Sir, that because they have asked the members of Legislative Council and Assembly to be consulted there is a lot of trouble? If the Collector is allowed to have his own way I think the Government can directly check and take action. Inasmuch as the members of Legislative Assembly and Council are asked to interfere the Collector himself is not able to do justice in the matter."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"As a first thing, Sir, I must protest against the hon. Member's allegation that the Members are asked to interfere. I must protest, Sir, that we have not asked the Members to interfere. They were asked to advise and if any hon. Member has gone and interfered with the Collector, the Collector has got sufficient powers to over-rule the interference and exercise his own judgment. As I have already stated the responsibility in the matter is entirely that of the Collector and hon. Members are consulted only in an advisory capacity."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"No doubt, Sir, hon. Members are consulted and they may not interfere. But they take the law into their own hands and the Collector is powerless."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, why the Government have asked all the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council to go to the Collector and advise? I got a note like that stating that there were 737 applicants. We were asked to give advice to the Collector as to which of them should be given licence. May I know, Sir, whether Members of the Legislature as such have

27th November 1948]

any particular knowledge on this subject and whether it may not be open to question that undue influence may be put upon them by others to get selected even though they may not deserve to be selected? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" They are supposed to have knowledge, Sir, of the Who is Who in their constituencies. That is why, Sir, it was thought that it would be better to associate their knowledge and information so that the Collectors might have their guidance. It was done purely to help the Collector to arrive at a correct decision. If any hon. Members do not want to associate themselves with this they need not go there at all."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" In view of the fact that there is a general impression both in the trade and outside that the Collector may or may not be guided by them, will the Government please see that in future if Members of the Legislature are to be allowed to advise on any matter, they will be persons capable of giving advice and not simply because they are Members of the Legislature? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I shall certainly take the hon. Member's suggestion, Sir."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" In view of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I know, Sir, whether he made any enquiries as to why in spite of the unanimous recommendations of a particular Committee of the district, the Collector went against that recommendation? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I have no information at all, Sir, that the Collector has gone beyond the recommendations of the Committee. In fact the Government do not get any copies of what the advisory Committee has recommended. The Government only get a letter saying that the following are the people recommended and it goes to the Provincial Textile Commissioner who scrutinizes and sends it on and then it is again scrutinized by the Secretariat and orders are passed."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Has not a short notice question by Sri Muthuranga Mudaliyar suggested, Sir, that the Collector of Chingleput has gone against the unanimous recommendation of the Committee? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I do not know that, Sir."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is there not adequate stock of textile goods in the Province, Sir, to justify the abolition of the whole system of licensing, etc.? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" That is a matter for the Government of India, Sir."

[27th November 1948]

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Is it not a fact, Sir, that while the role of the Members of the Legislature is said to be only advisory, as a matter of fact the advisory capacity develops into actual interference on account of . . .”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“Let me tell the hon. Member that the original question does not at all deal with the Members of the Legislature being Members of that Committee. If I have allowed some questions, it was because I thought that the public might be interested to know some of these things. But I am afraid too much advantage is being taken of that. When the House discusses the textile policy hon. Members can discuss these things.”

Supply of yarn to handloom weavers in Chingleput.

* 152-B Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the handloom weavers in the Chingleput district are suffering very much owing to dearth of yarn;

(b) whether it is a fact that the yarn supplied are of lower counts of 30s or 40s;

(c) whether it is a fact that the weavers in the district required only 60s and 80s;

(d) whether the Government propose to make arrangements to get only 60s and 80s of yarn and distribute it where it is mostly required;

(e) whether it is a fact that the mill-owners purposely produce lower counts of yarn instead of higher counts in order to make the Government's control ineffective;

(f) whether it is a fact that finer counts of foreign yarn are being imported in Madras;

(g) whether it is a fact that this foreign yarn is sold at black-market prices;

(h) whether there are no means of controlling the prices of such foreign yarn; and

(i) whether the Government hope to succeed in their control without controlling the prices of foreign yarn?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“(a), (b) & (c) The information is not available in the Secretariat and a report is being called for.

“(d) The production of finer counts within the Province is very limited and every effort will be made to distribute equitably the available quantity of 60s and 80s among the districts that need them.

27th November 1948]

“(e) Finer counts are spun out of imported cotton the prices of which were very high till recently. Certain mills were therefore forced to discontinue spinning of higher counts, as their production was not economical.”

“(f) Yes.”

“(g) The price of foreign yarn is not controlled.”

“(h) At present the Government of India are not in favour of controlling the prices of foreign yarn, apparently because the quantities are not expected to be appreciable.”

“(i) As the quantity of imported yarn is very small, its prices will not affect the present scheme of yarn control.”

Direct recruitment in the Police department.

* 154 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) how many officers have been directly recruited as Deputy, Assistant and District Superintendents and how many have been promoted from the ranks to the said posts in the Police department in the Presidency recently; and

(b) whether it is a fact that no Andhra has either been recruited directly or promoted from the ranks to the said posts recently?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“(a) The following are the particulars of officers recruited since 15th August 1947 :—

I. Officers directly recruited—

Deputy Superintendents of Police. 5 Two Andhras.

Assistant Superintendents of Police. 7 One Andhra.

District Superintendents of Police. .. There is no direct recruitment.

II. Officers promoted—

Deputy Superintendents of Police. 49 Twelve Andhras.

Assistant Superintendents of Police. .. There is no promotion to the rank of Assistant Superintendents of Police.

District Superintendents of Police. 25 Six Andhras.

“(b) The answer is in the negative.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“May I know, Sir, why only one Andhra has been selected as an Assistant Superintendent of Police out of 7?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“I do not think, Sir, that this sort of promotions and selections are made on a

[27th November 1948]

linguistic basis at all. Moreover people in the higher rank in the Police department are under the control of the Government of India. They make the selection and recommend the candidates to us. Besides many of the Superintendents of Police are people who were drafted from the Army because they have served well in the Army and they were also recommended to us by the Federal Public Service Commission. They are not concerned with all these things as from which areas people come. They have a selection list out of which they make recommendations and we of course take such people as we want out of the list they submit to us."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, who makes the selection for direct recruitment of the Deputy Superintendents of Police? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The Government of Madras, Sir."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" In the matter of selection of officers, Sir, should not the Government take into consideration their merits irrespective of the linguistic areas and communities? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The Hon. Minister has already said so."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, the basis of selection is only on merit. It is not a question of area at all or communities except in the case of the depressed and backward classes where a particular preference is given to people qualified for the job."

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" May I know, how many of these people are Tamilians, Sir."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I suppose, Sir, all those who are not Andhras are Tamilians."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Is it the view of the Hon. Minister, Sir, that all those who are not Andhras are Tamilians? What about the Malayalees and others, Sir."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The majority of them are certainly Tamilians, Sir. There may be an intermixture of a few Malayalees and Kannada speaking people."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" My question was, Sir, whether Malabar has already been absorbed into the Tamilnad? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am inclined to think, Sir, that Malabar is over-represented in the service."

Change in the names of municipalities and panchayat boards.

11-30
a.m.

* 155 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) how many municipalities and major and minor panchayat boards have changed their names since 15th August 1947;

27th November 1948]

(b) the old and new names of such municipalities and panchayat boards;

(c) what were the reasons for the changes;

(d) what procedure was adopted in changing the names;

(e) whether any, and what persons or associations were consulted as to the suitability of the new names, before the changes of names were effected; and

(f) whether the Postal and Railway authorities have agreed to the change of names?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“(a) & (b) The names of seven municipalities and twelve panchayats have been changed since 15th August 1947 as shown in the appended statement^a. The change of names of four of these panchayats is only in respect of their spelling in Tamil.

“(c) The change of names of municipalities and panchayats was necessitated by the change of names of the revenue villages concerned. The names of the revenue villages were changed to rectify the corrupt forms in use.

“(d) & (e) The procedure laid down by section 4 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and by section 5 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, was followed in respect of municipal councils and panchayats respectively.

No individual or association was consulted on the change of names. In the case of municipalities, the notifications proposing the alteration of the names were first published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, inviting objections and suggestions and in the case of panchayats, the respective panchayats were consulted. The notifications were confirmed after considering the objections and suggestions, if any, received thereon.

“(f) The Postal and Railway authorities were not consulted but copies of the orders were sent to them.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“What are the main reasons for this change of names?”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“As I have told you, corruption of spelling and also ingenious names which have been devised due to circumstances. These have been brought to the notice of the Government and the Government wanted to rectify the mistakes.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“What did it cost the Government to rename those places?”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“The cost was very insignificant if there was anything at all.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“May I know whether there is any meaning attached to this changed name, ‘Cheran Madevi’?”

[27th November 1948]

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ I do not know what the meaning is but there is a meaning according to the Tamil spelling.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ May I inform the hon. Gentleman that these names have a meaning. These original Tamil names had a meaning but by successful transmutation, they have been pronounced to suit the English language and English accents and the changed names have no significance. But the original Tamil names do have a meaning.”

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“ May I know whether some of these names which have been changed had been in usage by the public for a very considerable time? If that is the case, may I know what is the object of this change in names? ”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ As I have already said, the object is to restore the original names which have some meaning but which have become corrupt in the local area owing to various factors. With this object, the names have been changed.”

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—“ Is it a fact that these changes are made at the request of the villagers? ”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ It may not be necessarily at the request of villagers that these names have been changed.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know whether the villagers are prepared to accept the ‘Cheran Madevi’ instead of ‘Shermadevi’? ”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ They are prepared to accept the name ‘Cheran Madevi’.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ May I know what is the meaning of that name ‘Cheran Madevi’? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ It means ‘the great wife of King Chera’.”

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“ May I ask the Government whether they have given wide publicity, particularly in the affected towns and villages about the change of names? ”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member need not trouble himself about that.”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ No objection was raised by them.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Will the Government bring this fact of the change of names to the notice of the Postal and Railway authorities because, even though the name of Trichinopoly is changed into Tiruchirappalli, still the postal mark shows ‘Trichinopoly’? ”

27th November 1948]

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ Orders have been communicated to the Postal and Railway authorities and they have already taken action on these matters.”

Manganese ore exported from the Vizagapatam Port.

* 156 Q.—**SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI :** Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the quantity of manganese ore that was exported from Vizagapatam Port in 1947-48;

(b) to what countries it was exported;

(c) the names of the exporting firms; and

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to utilize the ore for any industry in the country?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“(a) to (c) This Government have no information as ‘exports’ are controlled by the Government of India.

“(d) Manganese ore will be required if a steel factory is located in this Province, but we have more ores than we would need.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know whether the erection of any steel factory in this Province is under the contemplation of the Government? ”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ This question relates to manganese ore exported from Vizagapatam? ”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ I want to know whether there is any proposal to erect a steel factory in this Province for the utilization of the manganese ore in that factory.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The Hon. Minister may tell the hon. Member whether Government intend to start a steel factory in this Province.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ This Government has been in correspondence with the Government of India about the erection of a steel factory in South India. The Government of India propose to install one or two steel factories in India and the Madras Government are corresponding with them with regard to the location of one of those factories in this Province.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ In view of the fact that ore is exported from our Province, is it not the duty of the Government of Madras to possess statistics of the ore that is being taken out of our Province? If not, will the Statistical Department be entrusted with the work of compiling statistics of whatever is exported from our Province? Statistics of such exports should be available to this House and to the Government because they are our resources.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ I quite realize that they are our resources. But, export is a subject that is dealt

[27th November 1948]

with by the Government of India. We consider ourself as part of India. But, if it is considered necessary that the Provincial Government should compile statistics of all the things exported from this Province, that question will be taken up with the Statistical Department."

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" If the quantity of manganese ore is more than what we require, what is the necessity to continue the controls on iron and steel? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" It does not mean that you can get all the steel out of the ore."

Payment of dearness allowance to teachers.

* 157 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ordered payment of dearness allowance to teachers in elementary schools under all managements;

(b) what is the basis on which dearness allowance is to be paid to teachers in aided elementary schools;

(c) whether the managements are also required to revise the salaries of elementary school teachers and grant them weightage; and

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, whether the Government have agreed to increase grants-in-aid in deserving cases?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—

" (a) Yes.

" (b) Dearness allowance is to be paid to teachers in aided elementary schools at the rates applicable to Government servants with effect from 1st January 1948, the actual amount payable to each teacher being fixed with reference to the scale of grant admissible to him.

" (c) All managements of elementary schools are required to pay the teachers under their employ in accordance with the revised scale of grants fixed by the Government with effect from 1st January 1947. It is open to the managements to give weightage for the services of teachers under them.

" (d) No."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that orders have been issued asking local bodies to give weightage in respect of teachers employed under them, will Government consider the desirability, in order to have a contented elementary school staff, of advising the different managements to give weightage also to the staff under them and to make good any loss that they sustain on that account by increased grants? "

27th November 1948]

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—

“ I very much sympathize with the suggestion, but with the Government's finance, as they are, it is difficult to do this.”

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE.

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ Sir, I have placed in the hands of hon. Members a statement on the food situation in this Province. In fact, this is a second statement in addition to the one which I have distributed to the members some time ago. I had hoped that a discussion on the food situation would take place in the Assembly and at that time, I prepared an exhaustive statement for the information of the members of the Assembly and at the same time, I distributed copies of the same to the members of the Council as well. Unfortunately, there was no discussion possible in the other House and it has become possible in this House. The other statement was submitted about four weeks ago and it is not quite up-to-date. Therefore, I thought it better, in the interests of the discussion, that the Government should make a fresh statement and I have distributed copies of the fresh statement to the members of this House. I am sure everyone has got a copy of the statement in time to enable him to go through it so that he may be in a position to offer such criticism or advice as may be necessary. I would reserve what I have got to say at the end of the discussion so that I may answer the criticisms of hon. Members and I might then give them the answer which would explain the position more satisfactorily. I move, Sir, that the food situation in the Province be considered.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ In view of the fact that it is proposed to discuss three motions of the Government in one day, what shall be the procedure? Is there time to-day for all the three motions? I think there must be some time limit. Otherwise, we cannot take up all the three motions.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ I would like to suggest that the question of food be taken up first.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I understand that, but hon. Members would like to discuss all the three motions in which case we have to set apart specific time for each motion.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ If there is time, I would like all the three motions to be taken up.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ If hon. Members want all the three motions to be taken up to-day, then, I would divide the time into three parts; food discussion will end at a certain time; afterwards discussion on the textile policy will begin and end at a certain time and so on. I have no objection if hon. Members want to go on discussing for a longer time.”

[27th November 1948]

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ I would like the food debate to be taken up in the morning and the other two in the afternoon.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Is the House prepared to take the whole day on food discussion and to leave the others? ”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ I would like all the three motions to be taken up and finished to-day.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ We would like to give more attention to the food problem.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Then, I think, it is better you fix some time for the food debate.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ The suggestion of the Leader of the House may be accepted.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The food debate will close before lunch; in view of that, I want to know how many members would like to speak on this so that I can fix a time-limit. Does the Hon. Leader of the Opposition want half an hour? ”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Fifteen minutes is sufficient for me.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ I take it that the textile debate will come in the afternoon.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Yes, the Hon. Minister may go now if he wants. (Laughter.) Evidently he has not taken his food.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Sir, we are very much thankful to the Hon. Minister for Food, not only for having taken up this food discussion first, but also for having given us details, details which we could not have known otherwise. It clearly shows that he has taken the hon. Members of this House and the public as well into confidence. As I have said on many occasions, the food problem is not a party problem at all. And generally, the public have been very much satisfied with the way the problem has been tackled by Government from time to time. After all, there was a mistake due to decontrol, but that mistake was not due entirely to this Government, but the Government of India wanted the Provincial Government to make a trial, by relaxing controls. And moreover, the trial was also worth making. Now that we are going from decontrol to control once again, I feel that Government have done their best in this matter, in the interests of the public. Although the Hon. Minister is to be congratulated on the manner in which he has tackled the food problem, in such a way that there has never been any famine or starvation in our Province, still, I am afraid the food problem remains very acute. As far as I could see from the Hon. Minister's statement, that if there is no prospect of the Government of India allotting ten lakhs of tons of rice for our Province this year, this Government may not be able to give 12 or even 8 ounces per head per day. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, whether it would

27th November 1948] [Dr. V. K. John]

assist him, if this House passes a resolution requesting the Government of India to grant us these ten lakhs of tons this year. But he stated some time back that a resolution is not required, since the Government of India are doing their best. But for my part, I feel such a resolution is necessary to acquaint the Government of India with the fact that such an allocation is desired by all sections of this House, and by the public as well."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Is there any motion given by the Leader of the Opposition on this or anything else?"

DR. V. K. JOHN:—"I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, whether we are to have only a general discussion, or whether we are to discuss a motion as well?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I do not think Government would like to bring in a motion now. If the hon. Member wants, he can make such a motion."

DR. V. K. JOHN:—"Then, Sir, I would like to **move**—

and upon such consideration this Council recommends to the Government to press upon the Government of India to allot ten lakhs of tons of foodgrains over and above the allotments already made this year to tide over the serious food situation in the Province.

"There are one or two important points I would like to deal with. The first is with reference to the price paid to the agriculturist. Sir, more than anything else, more than procurement or distribution—production is very important. Government are devoting their attention to this aspect of the problem also, but what has been done so far is not sufficient. The price given to the producer is to be considered. In fixing the price the reason given is that the price to be paid by the consumer should not be increased. But I am afraid the cultivator, i.e., the producer might leave his lands uncultivated, if he does not get a fair return for his produce.

"Some months ago, while I was travelling from Madura to Madras by train, I was told that a proprietor of land owning a few hundreds of acres was hesitating to bring these into cultivation, and was thinking whether it was not sufficient for him to cultivate what is really required for his own personal consumption. The reason given was that it was very risky to cultivate the lands, for one has to depend on the monsoon, and further the cost of cultivation has gone up, and if he undertook to cultivate a few hundreds of acres, he might be a loser by a few thousands of rupees; and so he thought it much better not to undertake that risk. Such being the case, my submission is that unless the producers' interests are also looked to, in the matter of the fixation of prices, the Government will not be encouraging cultivation at all. It is easy to advise the cultivator to cultivate his lands in the larger interests of the people of this Province. But agriculture is an industry, wherein the human element, i.e., the motive for a profit must be supplied, in order that more food may be produced. Government must go

[Dr. V. K. John] [27th November 1948]

into this question in greater detail, and should not merely look at the consumers' point of view. The price which the consumer has to pay is the one that the Government have to fix and perhaps subsidise. The producer must have at least a small margin left with him, which will encourage him in his agricultural industry. But at the same time, I am very anxious that the consumer should not be asked to pay much more than what he could afford. In that case, certainly Government must come to the rescue of the consumer.

"Actually, Sir, I would like to put a specific question to the Hon. Minister. How much money has been spent in subsidising food?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"3.26 crores of rupees, up to 1st October 1948."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Sir, a huge amount has been spent by Government in subsidising the food given to the consumers. I cannot ask them to spend anything more. There is therefore this dilemma. The producer must have a small margin to himself. The consumer should not be asked to pay a price which he could not afford. And our Government cannot afford to subsidize food any more. I should like to know what is the position taken by the Government."

"Another question I would like to ask the Hon. Minister is this. What is the rise in prices on account of the decontrol, and what was the price during the pre-war period?"

"Sir, the question of production is very important. The world situation with regard to rice is not quite good, and the Government of India could not import as much as they would like to, and so they may not be able to allocate more than 6 lakhs of tons to this Province. It is therefore all the more important that we must have a plan to increase production. I am not criticising the Government or telling the public that they have not paid any attention to this problem. I am only pointing out that greater attention should be paid. And in this connexion, I would like to tell hon. Members, what I heard from a friend of mine recently."

"The other day, I had a talk with Mr. S. Ananthakrishnan, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Messrs. Simpson and Company, who had been to America to visit industrial centres. He visited not only industrial centres, but even agricultural centres. One agricultural centre which he visited was the Imperial Valley in California, about 1,200 square miles in extent, which has been brought under cultivation, in spite of the fact there has been no rain at all in that place, not even a drop of rain had fallen there for the last 75 years. The temperature there ranges between two extremes—120°F in the shade in summer, and below 0°F in winter. But the soil was very well suited for cultivation. And one American conceived the idea of bringing water to that plot from a place 400 miles away. And the American Government came to his aid, with the result that to-day about 100 million dollars worth of corn and fruits are being produced there, in that

27th November 1948] [Dr. V. K. John]

desert area. The produce repaid many times the expenses for bringing water from a far off place. And when that gentleman left that place, selling away his interests in the land, he was asked to give a message to the public. The only message he gave was this: "When you want rain, do not pray to God, but merely telephone." The system which he introduced was to divide these 1,200 square miles of land, into plots of about 160 acres and build a small house, and install a telephone for each plot. And the person who takes up that plot for cultivation wants to utilise the water coming from a place 400 miles away, he has merely to insert a dollar into a slot, and telephone for water. And in a few minutes, thousands and thousands of gallons of water would begin to pour in on the plot. And if there is no response within 15 minutes' time, then no price need be paid for water. Thus, the owner of the land gets water for cultivating it, within 15 minutes' time, and has to pay very little for it.

The Government may not now be able to undertake big irrigation works. For instance there is one project which is intended to supply water to the City of Madras. I think that private enterprise may be encouraged in this field. Sir, America does not depend on an export economy so much as Britain does. It consumes 95 per cent of what it produces and does not depend on exports. The Americans are now willing to invest 500 million dollars here provided the money is returned to them within twenty years and they are paid a dividend of 6 per cent if 6 per cent or more than 6 per cent profit is earned and a dividend of less than 6 per cent if less than 6 per cent profit is earned and no dividend if no profit is earned. But they would like the capital to be returned to them in twenty years. I had occasion to mention this to some of the Hon. Ministers and I think they are seriously considering what could be done. I ask the Government to encourage private enterprise in the matter of irrigation, electric supply and supply of seeds and implements to the agriculturists. The Government must clear the prejudice of the agriculturists against the adoption of scientific methods. It is a very difficult task. I do not think that our Government's heart is not in it. The Government are doing their best.

Sir, I do not find in this paper which is circulated to us any reference to production. It is concerned only with procurement and distribution. Various complaints have been heard that in the name of procurement, discrimination is made as between individuals on account of the petty prejudices of the officials who are engaged in the work. Is the procurement based on the area cultivated, on the produce estimated or something else which is equitable so that people may not complain that some persons who have produced large quantities are not asked to give up everything while others who produce less are asked to give up everything and find it difficult to get on? In the matter of procurement, greater attention must be paid or more particular attention must be paid by the Hon. Minister for Food, so that it may be equitable and people may feel that no discrimination is made.

[Dr. V. K. John] [27th November 1948]

“As far as distribution is concerned, I think rationing ought to be brought into force immediately. We had the rationing system some time before and I do not see why it should not be introduced immediately. Is it because we have not got sufficient stock and we have to procure sufficient stock for distribution? Or is it because we want to have the complete machinery in operation? It might be both. But I know the difficulties the people have to undergo, especially in Chingleput district, for getting their rice.

“Sir, in this connexion I would like to draw your attention to one matter which may not be directly pertinent to the question we are discussing but which is pertinent from a general point of view. I have mentioned this matter to the Hon. the Premier and to my Hon. Friends on the other side several times. I think we should introduce a law to punish black-marketing. We have to pay more for foodstuffs and we cannot afford to pay more for other things also such as cloth and other necessities of life. During war time we had a law restricting profits to 20 per cent of the cost of production of things produced here and 20 per cent of the landed cost on imported articles. The Government should bring forward a Bill to prevent black-marketing in all articles, now that the price of everything has gone up, including bus fares. I do not blame the Government. It is very necessary that the Government should as quickly as possible introduce a law which will prevent black-marketing so that the average consumer may be benefited.

“Sir, I thank the Hon. Minister once again for bringing this matter before the House for discussion. The usefulness of the Council is maintained, as we expect the Hon. the Leader of the House himself to maintain it. I move, Sir, that—

‘and upon such consideration this Council recommends to the Government to press upon the Government of India to allot ten lakhs of tons of foodgrains over and above the allotments already made for this year to tide over the serious food situation in the Province.’”

* K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—

“Sir, I also join the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition in congratulating the Government on reintroducing controls, though the main reason given for this is not the short-supply of goods but the necessity to check inflation. Whatever the main reason may be we know that controls have come back. Last year when the Government of India decided on decontrol, we warned the Government that decontrol especially of foodgrains would cause misery to the poor people. The rich can afford to buy in the black-market, but the poor cannot. I am glad that the Government from their own experience of decontrol have come back to the old position and decided to reintroduce controls. We hope that the Government will see that the controls work satisfactorily. I have great pleasure in seconding the motion of Dr. John requesting the Government to obtain from the Government of India ten lakhs of tons of foodgrains. We all know how last year

27th November 1948]

[K. T. M. Ahamed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur]

for want of sufficient food several parts of our province were put to great difficulty and how there were some deaths due to starvation in some places. I must congratulate the Hon. the Minister for Food for rushing food supplies then especially to places like Tinnevely and Ramnad and averting further starvation deaths. The Government must urge on the Government of India the necessity of further supplies of food so that the people may be enabled to keep their body and soul together.

“ Sir, I understand that the world food situation is not so difficult as last year. News received from Australia, United States of America and Argentina show that the wheat crops there have been unprecedented and that the problem is not one of shortage but of finding markets for disposal. Therefore the Government of India must take early steps to get the necessary wheat from those countries. They need not have to pay heavy price as they did last year as there is keen competition among those countries for marketing their wheat. Last year the United States of America refused to accept the recommendations of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. Now there is a possibility of the Congress of the United States agreeing to the recommendations of the F.A.O. We may be able to get large quantities of wheat this year. As the Hon. Sardar Patel said at Benares, we have to pay heavily even for freight. But we have to save the people from starvation and we have to spend huge amounts in getting the grains from abroad until we are able to produce sufficient food in our own country by improved methods of agriculture. It is true that various irrigation schemes are now contemplated, but till they come into operation there will be difficulty in making the country self-sufficient. The available irrigation sources will have to be used with greater results. The agriculturists may be supplied with the necessary electric power, manure and implements quickly.

“ Sir, I must congratulate the Government on having decided to increase the price of paddy and rice. It is a very necessary step. We have been requesting the Government to do it, especially as the cost of living and the cost of cultivation have increased enormously. This increase ought to have been made long ago, but the Government of India did not allow our Government to do it. Now I am glad that our Government have been able to induce the Government of India to allow an increase in the price of paddy. I do not know whether it is sufficient to meet the situation. If any further increase is necessary, the Government must look into the matter.

“ As regards procurement, intensive procurement has been introduced in certain areas, and the statement of the Food Secretary says that; ‘ Informal rationing should be reintroduced in all the districts where intensive procurement is restored as soon as sufficient stocks are built up. Meanwhile, the relief shops will continue to supply rations to non-producers.’ Will that be enough? On the one hand, stocks are taken away from the people; on the other

[27th November 1948]

[K. T. M. Ahamed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur]

hand, they are not given the minimum quantity required for them to make both ends meet. Is the supply given through relief shops sufficient? The other day when a question was put on the floor of the House, the Hon. Food Minister said that whatever supply the Government had had been distributed among the people. Is that enough? Should you not supply the people with the necessary amount of foodgrains? You take away the foodgrains from them, and at the same time you do not see to it that they get the necessary amount of food during the interval between intensive procurement and the introduction of informal rationing. This is a matter which should be looked into by the Government seriously. How are the people to maintain themselves until the necessary stocks are built up when only you will introduce rationing?

“One other small matter to which I should like to call the attention of Government is this: among the directions given by the Government of India, there is one relating to the polishing of rice. It is said: ‘Polishing of rice should be banned so as to increase its nutritive value as also the quantity available for distribution.’ We are all rice-eaters and we all know how people are anxious to have polished rice. Many people won’t even touch rice which is not polished. Even the lowest class of people, the street dwellers, get their rice from the ration shop and polish it before cooking it. (A Member: ‘Polished rice will bring beri beri.’) The old theory was that polishing of rice would cause beri beri, but later the scientists have found that that theory is wrong, that beri beri is not caused by polishing of rice and that it is caused by something else. I think the Government of India issued a communique to that effect, if my recollection is not wrong. Sir, this question of prevention of polishing has been introduced by people who are not themselves accustomed to take rice. Looking to the general opinion prevalent among the people of this province, they should be allowed to polish rice for the purpose of cooking; otherwise, they will feel it very difficult to take rice. In fact, if you go along the streets of Madras, you will find the street dwellers polishing the ration rice. I have great pleasure, Sir, in supporting the motion.”

DR. V. K. JOHN:—“This is my resolution (handing over the resolution to Mr. President).”

* SRI D. KRISHNAMURTI:—“Mr. President, Sir, the food situation is very grave to-day and requires the immediate attention of Government. We are only getting 8 oz. ration. At the instance of Mahatma Gandhi, the province gave up the rationing system except in the case of a few municipalities. The Government now want to retrace their steps and introduce rationing. I am one of those who do not believe that the situation could be improved by retracing our steps. In the municipal towns where rationing continues to-day, it is a matter of common knowledge that the Government have miserably failed to put down black marketing. Eight ounces rice ration given to us plus 2 oz. of other grains is hardly sufficient to make an individual live on it. This is responsible for a good deal of malnutrition. Nonetheless people are getting

27th November 1948] [SRI D. KRISHNAMURTI]

on because they are depending upon black-marketing. It is a matter of common knowledge that in places where there is no ration, prices have gone very high and people are getting what they want, except the poorer classes. That is the situation to-day. If you want to put down black-marketing once for all, you have to find out the causes that support this black-marketing and root them out once for all, so that it may not thrive again. There are two causes: one is the black-marketeer cannot sell rice in the market unless he gets his stock and he gets it from some place, naturally from the producers. Producers sell their grains to this person probably with the connivance of some underlings of Government at prices higher than what they get otherwise. One of the reasons for the producer to sell his grain to the blackmarketeer is that the price he gets is higher while the price offered by Government is hardly sufficient to meet his production costs. Wages have gone up very high and the ryot finds it very difficult to produce grain at the rate at which he is permitted to sell. Therefore, to make good the loss he would otherwise sustain, he is obliged to sell it to the black-marketeer. We must apply our minds to this problem from two standpoints; one is to introduce very severe legislative measures to put down blackmarketing and make it punishable with severe punishments, so that the merchants and others may not resort to it. There is no prospect for us to get more than 8 oz. ration for the next two or three years, because the situation around us in Burma, China and other places wherefrom we get rice, is bad; difficulties are being created there and it is likely they may be multiplied in the future. The 'grow more food' campaign has not produced any appreciable results. My hon. Friend Dr. John was just mentioning to the House the case of the Imperial Valley Scheme in the United States of America where production is carried on a large scale. In this connexion, I am glad to mention to this House that the Ramapadasagar project—which is being talked of very frequently in the Press—is capable of irrigating more than a million acres, thereby adding to the area of wet cultivation. (A Member: 15 years hence.) May be it is a question of the future but is there any chance of your meeting the food situation without increasing the production of rice? It is very unfortunate, Sir, to learn from some persons that the Government at the Centre is very lukewarm about this project. I ask; where is the prospect of our making ourselves self-contained with reference to food unless and until we do something to increase the production of foodcrops which is very vitally necessary? Ten years hence we may perhaps be able to get the required quantity of rice; but for the last four years we have been getting on on 10 oz., 8 oz. and probably it will become 6 oz. hereafter and we do not see any rosy picture or hope for the future unless and until the international situation improves. Therefore I suggest that the Government should pay more attention to the prevention of black-marketing and also to the enhancement of production by taking up immediately big irrigation projects.

“One thing more I want to say is that after decontrol was established there were not many cases of starvation in the areas where rice is grown and Government by their methods of procurement and transport have been able to transport paddy to places of

[Sri D. Krishnamurti] [27th November 1948]

scarcity and thus avoid instances like the Bengal Famine in this province. Much credit is due to the Government in that respect and I do not see why that system is to be changed. By the re-introduction of control the Government, the underlings of Government will only add confusion and our experience of these controls in various respects is very bitter indeed. I have been to several places in the mufassal where there are no controls and people there are not complaining that they are not getting what they want; their complaint is only about the prices. Government should therefore direct their attention to the control of prices. Another fact which stares us in the face is that even in areas where there is no control to-day, food is available either in the open market or in the black-market. That goes to prove that the total quantity produced is not so insufficient as the official figures of Government placed before us show, but the ryot does not give up his grain and it is being secreted. In the villages the karnam and the village munsif, the lower strata in the hierarchy of Government"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Your remarks do not apply to the deficit districts? "

* SRI D. KRISHNAMURTI :—" I do not know about that; but I know that in East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna, there are large quantities available, and people there do not find it very difficult to maintain themselves. And so long as the people get enough quantity of foodgrains, be it in the open market or in the black-market, the proposition stands proved that production is not insufficient to cope with the consumption in the province. What I suggest therefore is that the Government should pay more attention to this aspect, viz., the question of control—not control of rationing, but control of production and transport, so that the situation may ease. I do not very much believe that the Government of India will come to our rescue and give us more than six lakhs of tons of grain as they did last year. Our deficit is large, viz., six lakhs and the situation is not very hopeful. The Government must take the responsibility to see that there is no famine in any part of the province. As I said, the fact that there is sufficient quantity produced in the country is proved by the supply available in the blackmarket which unfortunately has escaped the vigilance of the Government in spite of their best efforts. My suggestion to the Government is that they should pay more and more attention to see that the ryot is satisfied, that he sells his grain in the open market and not in the black-market and that the persons who distribute in the black-market are penalized so that they may not hereafter resort to black-marketing. With these words, Sir, I support the motion of hon. Dr. John."

* SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, at first I had no desire to intervene in this debate. It was usual for us to use, in connexion with the Congress resolutions some time ago, the words 'hardy annual.' Similarly, in this House we are having this hardy quarterly. Every time the Legislature meets, we have made it a point to discuss about food, and every

27th November 1948] [Sri C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar]

time we discussed, we had the same point and we have not proceeded any further. (A member : 'Whose fault?') Everybody's fault, I think, from the villager upwards. Sir, I neither support nor oppose the resolution of my friend the Leader of the Opposition. The contents of the resolution have already been sent to the Government of India. The Madras Government have asked for ten lakhs of foodgrains for the Madras Presidency in order to manage the situation. But I am sorry that we should be content to ask for doles from the Government of India or from foreign countries and to distribute what we get among the people through ration shops or relief shops. Sir, we have all forgotten to follow Mahatmaji's teachings though we remember the name of Mahatma Gandhi.

Sir, Mahatmaji, while he was alive, was advising everybody to produce their food and their cloth and be self-sufficient and never to wait upon foreigners to make these supplies. But we did try to produce ourselves and we also managed with the imported goods, sending a lot of money to foreign countries to purchase rice at a very high cost. Ultimately, Mahatmaji pressed the country to remove these controls, rationing and all that, primarily to put down the dishonest people of this country. Sir, people have become so dishonest that they began to corrupt officials. People are willing to corrupt the officials in order that they may earn money and the officials are willing to take money and shield them. That is how corruption and black-marketing are increasing and it is for that primary reason that Mahatmaji advised us to remove controls and accordingly controls were given up. But what has now happened? The Government of India have pressed upon us to the need for re-introducing controls. I do not know the advisers to the Government of India who initiated this move. They pressed upon the Government of India to re-introduce controls and the Government of India pressed it upon the Provinces and food control has been introduced in this Province. What is going to be done, I ask the Madras Government. Are they sure now at least, while introducing this control, their officers will behave in a straightforward manner and their agents will give up black-marketing and they will procure the maximum amount of foodgrains which the Government fix as target. I am not sure, Sir, that they will do so.

"Sir, I can quote one or two instances which occurred in recent days. Once the Firka Supply Officer had visited one of the relief shops near my place. When he was there, the people of the village collected together and told him that black-marketing was going on and foodgrains were being sold at higher prices. The Firka Supply Officer then looked into the account, measured the stock and found that 140 measures of rice were left unaccounted for in the account book. He made some fuss and the ration shop-keeper thrust ten ten-rupee notes into his pocket and everything dissolved. The Firka Supply Officer then went away to the disappointment of these villagers.

"Sir, wholesalers are given rice in large quantities for distribution among the relief shops. As soon as they take rice from the Government godowns, some portion of that stock is being put into lorries.

[Sri C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar] [27th November 1948]

and sent to Madras straightaway. They purchase rice from the Government at Rs. 29 a bag but they sell it in black-market at the rate of Rs 58 a bag. This kind of thing goes on everywhere. It is not one relief shop that does it. Most of them do like that. If this thing goes on even now when control is being introduced, do you expect your rationing to be successful? Do you expect that the consumer will have his quota properly? Do you expect that the consumer will be satisfied if the price of foodgrains is increased? Now the consumer gets a measure of rice for 10½ annas or 11 annas according to the Government rate. Of course, in the relief shops it is sold at a higher rate without the officials knowing it or conniving at it. If the present price is increased by another 25 per cent, it will further hit the consumer. So far as I am concerned, I am not a consumer in the sense that I do not go to a relief shop. I am a producer. Of course, the increase given will benefit me. But what will the consumer think? Will the consumer be able to purchase it at a higher price? Already one of my friends on the other side was saying that the increase announced by the Government is not enough. Of course, there must be some increase so that the agriculturists may produce more. But what will the consumer think? Will he be able to purchase it at that increased rate? He cannot. So that must also be considered.

“ Under these circumstances, Sir, is it right or is it good to have this control? You may say that when you abolished the control, the prices soared up. True, we all know it. If you had left it for some more time, the prices would have fallen. Already it has begun to fall from Rs. 1-8-0 to Re. 1 or even 14 annas a measure. By bringing this control, you are indirectly helping the merchants. As soon as they hear that control is being introduced, they immediately rush to the villagers and purchase paddy for Rs. 30 or Rs. 35 a bag when the Government rate comes to Rs. 12 a bag. Having purchased it, they indulge in black-marketing. This is one of the questions that must be considered.

“ Now, what I would suggest to the Government is to produce more. How to produce more foodgrains? Give all the facilities to the agriculturists to produce more. The means are there. You gave subsidy for the sinking of wells. Wells were sunk. But did you find out how many wells are capable of producing more water? Did you find how many wells have been installed with electric pumps? Did you find how many wells have been installed with picottahs? You have not done anything in this matter. I want to know how many villages were supplied with electricity till now? Whereas in the Madras City, so many cinema houses are supplied with electricity; so many oil mills are supplied with electricity; and so many printing presses are supplied with electricity. Government have done nothing to supply electricity to the villages. So, that is the chief thing we have to consider. What I would suggest is, give electric current to all the wells. Then, you can expect even second crop and the lands will yield more. This year, we have not got much rain and the harvest season is also approaching and we cannot expect a good harvest. But if you give electricity to villages and

27th November 1948] [Sri C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar]

if you supply the villagers with good manure, they will also cultivate the second crop called 'sornavari'—in Tanjore it is called 'kuru-vai' crop—and that will be sufficient to make each district self-supporting.

"Even this is not sufficient. You must remove all inter-district and inter-provincial controls and allow merchants to import rice from Burma, Siam and other places. Then, the imported rice and the local rice will compete with each other and prices will come down. Sir, that is the thing that we must do if we want to bring down prices. We cannot expect any great help from the Ramapadasagar Project or from the Krishna-Pennar Project or from the Tungabhadra Project. They will take some years. The minimum thing that we can do to-day is to improve the irrigation facilities, to sink more wells and to supply villages with electricity.

"In this connexion, I am impelled to quote what Mahatma Gandhi used to say whether it is relished in this House or not when he referred to villages. He used to say that 'hitherto villages were helping the cities. Now, cities must help the villages.' This is what Mahatma Gandhi was saying.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Krishnamurthi was saying that eight ounces plus two ounces of ration were being given. But what is our lot in the villages? We are given four ounces plus two ounces. Is that enough for us?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—"Certainly not."

* SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, we have been given six ounces and four ounces of ration and now informal rationing is coming. Are they going to increase the ration? According to the statement placed on the table of the House, it is proposed to increase it only in the statutorily rationed areas and not in the informally rationed areas. I ask, Sir, is this ration sufficient for a labourer working in the field who has to toil throughout the day. Whereas in the case of the citizens of Madras, they are given eight ounces plus two ounces, and it is going to be increased to 12 ounces. In the City, the people can live somehow or other. They have got other amenities. They can go to coffee hotels and take as much food as they like. They can even have 'chota hazri'. But what about the man working in the fields? Is the ration of six ounces or four ounces sufficient? Certainly not. Where can he get 'chota hazri'? He can have only his ration of four or six ounces. Even 16 ounces of ration is not sufficient for him. But you give him only this meagre ration. With this ration, how can he produce more foodgrains? We cannot extract more work from him. So, I want to impress upon this House and the Hon. Minister for Food the need for an increased ration in the mufassal places even to the detriment of the City people. Let him lower the ration in the City so that he may increase the ration for the villager who has to labour in the fields and produce food for the citizens here.

"One other point on which I want to speak

[27th November 1948]

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member has already taken twenty minutes.”

* SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—“ Then, I resume my seat.”

12.45
p.m.

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I am thankful to the Hon. Minister for Food not only for giving us this opportunity to discuss the food situation but also for proclaiming that the policy of the Government is in favour of recontrol. In the discussion of the food situation on the 13th of August last, I spoke against decontrol. At that time you were pleased to put me the question ‘ The central point of the hon. Member is that the Government must re-introduce control, is it not? ’ and I answered in the affirmative. To-day wisdom has dawned on the Government, though belated. It was at the instance of the Central Government that this Government were stampeded into introducing decontrol. The Central Government were moved, if I may say so, by blackmarketers who wanted to take advantage of decontrol. As I foreshadowed at that time, immediately after decontrol the price of foodgrains and other necessities of life rose abnormally high before the very eyes of this Government, but they were not able to take any action against the people who were responsible for it. We are thankful to the Government of India and the Government of Madras for reconsidering the question and deciding in favour of recontrol.”

“ What passes my comprehension and what, I feel, a man with ordinary common sense cannot understand is the following passage in the note on the food position :—

‘ As regards procurement prices for the next kharif year, the Government have, after careful consideration of the representations received by them and of the increase in the cost of living as well as in the cost of cultivation that have taken place since last year, decided to increase the existing village-site prices suitably taking care to see that the price to the consumer is not increased by more than Rs. 2 per imperial maund of rice.’

To prevent an increase in the cost of living, the Government are careful to see that the increase of price to the consumer is not more than Rs. 2. An increase of Rs. 2 per maund of rice works out to an increase of two annas per measure approximately. A man who now pays 11 annas or 12 annas will have to pay hereafter 13 annas or 14 annas. Is this lessening the cost of living as the Government seem to suggest? Is it not increasing the cost of living? If the common man is asked to pay for the increase, his lot will become worse. Therefore I suggest that whatever the increase may be, it must be borne either by the Central Government or by the Provincial Government.

“ Another point which I should like to impress upon the Government is about the polishing of rice. I do agree that consumption of polished rice may result in malnutrition. But all people are not like my friend Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar who gets fine rice from his fields. Men like me have to purchase from relief

27th November 1948] [Abdul Latif Farookhi Sahib Bahadur]

shops. The quality of rice sold in these shops is so bad that it is impossible to take it. It produces indigestion, diarrhoea, and other stomach troubles. If the Government are bent upon preventing people from polishing, let them see that a better quality of rice which does not require polishing is supplied.

“ My hon. Friend Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar very pertinently asked the question : Why is there this deficiency ? The Government of India are preventing the Provincial Governments from taking up the initiative and acting independently in the matter. Formerly merchants were allowed to import foodgrains and other articles from whatever place it was possible for them to get. There was competition and therefore the merchants were selling at a lower price. What prevents the Government of India from giving freedom to the Provincial Governments is a matter on which we have to get enlightenment either from the Hon. Food Minister or from the Government of India. To a lay mind like mine it appears that if the Provincial Governments are given freedom and they in turn give freedom to the merchants, the merchants would import from Burma and other places, compete in the local market and sell at a cheaper price.

“ Then, there is blackmarket. Blackmarket will certainly prevail until the Government take stringent measures to prevent it. To some extent it was prevented by control during former days. I do not say that it was altogether non-existent during days of control, but it was very difficult to blackmarket. In spite of it, people were able to purchase foodgrains from ration shops. Now there are relief shops, and in them there is no proper control and organization. The organization set up for control has been abolished to minimise expenditure. Now the Government want to reimpose control, and once again they have to employ more or less the same number of officers.

“ Once again I impress on the Government the need to prevent blackmarket as far as possible and thank them for giving this opportunity for discussion.

“ With these words, I support the motion of the hon. Leader of the Opposition.”

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ I thank the Government for the steps taken by them to reimpose control and enforce strict procurement. In connexion with intensive procurement, I have to request the Government to instruct their officers to procure only from producers and not from the poor villagers. During harvest season, the villagers labour and get their wages in the shape of grains. The officers procure the whole quantity available with the villagers and show a procurement figure of 10 kotas and 15 kotas per day. The value of it will be about Rs. 200 to Rs. 300. This is done by the officers in their anxiety to show a good record and not with the idea of saving the country. By such procurement, they make the poor people suffer. Especially in villages, poor are in larger numbers than the rich, and they are not able to purchase foodgrains for their requirements. The rich can afford to buy at any price but the poor cannot. If only procurement from the producers is done in the proper manner and at

[Sri M. D. T. Kumaraswami Mudaliyar] [27th November 1948]

the proper time, the poor need not be made to suffer. Officers generally start procurement fifteen or twenty days after harvest. In the interval, the produce goes underground. If they commence in proper time, even more quantity can be procured.

"As regards the subsidy for sinking wells, it is a sheer waste of funds. One big well will be of more use than a number of small wells. In an acre of land, two or three wells are dug and the result is there is very little water in each well.

"With these words, I support the motion of Dr. John."

* MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, it is my duty and privilege to say a few words about the food problem in this Presidency. The Hon. Minister has made a very clear statement which we can easily follow. But he has omitted the last paragraph which he usually adds in which he appeals to the producers to co-operate with the Government in the matter of procurement.

"One year ago we stood here and said that rationing was rational and non-rationing irrational. Sir, we have to bring that point to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Food once again. Although rationing gives only eight or ten oz., or 12 oz., yet it gives an assured quantity of food. I think there is control of prices only in districts where rationing prevails. Price control was urged very strongly by the members who spoke before me. So I will not dwell very long on that subject. In non-ration districts, the price has not fallen. In Chingleput, the price of one measure of rice is as high as Re. 1-6-0, 1-4-0 or 1-2-0 (Interruption) and though the hon. Member says that it has gone down to 14 annas I have not found it so. But under the system of rationing, the price of even the best quality of rice was never more than eight annas or ten annas inclusive of sales tax. Therefore the villagers will be glad to have rationing re-introduced in their areas. During decontrol days we found that the available rice did not circulate in proper quantities for distribution and that is the reason why we are urging the re-introduction of rationing.

1 p.m.

"Sir, I will not labour this point any more, because members who possess more brains than I do, have already dealt with it.

"Sir, rationing prevents blackmarketing, but hon. Members who spoke a little while ago tried to show that rationing has increased blackmarketing and the hon. Leader of the Opposition said that a tremendous machinery would be required to suppress blackmarketing. Sir, in my opinion, no such tremendous machinery is required to suppress blackmarketing, because we have got the cheapest machinery for the purpose available within ourselves. If we, each of us, make up our minds to see to it that we do not go in for blackmarket rice, under any circumstances, if we only make up our minds to refrain from encouraging those who indulge in blackmarket rice, we can surely put an end to this blackmarketing. If by chance some friends or relations come into my house, and if the ration that is given to me has got used up, I would simply send for some meals from the various hotels which are selling meals and if all of our friends did likewise, and for those

27th November 1948] [Mrs. Mona Hensman]

extra people who come to their houses if they should buy their meals from the hotels, we need not have to go in for blackmarket rice and encourage it by paying higher prices. That is the sure way of putting down blackmarketing.

“ Another way to stop blackmarketing is that whenever we go out of the City, for any reason, we should give notice to the Rationing authorities accordingly and should not draw ration for those days. If such information is given to the Rationing Centre, the ration shop-keeper will not be given our ration of rice and he will not have the opportunity to sell such rice in the blackmarket. Therefore the blackmarket is not a matter for the machinery of the Government alone to deal with. It is a matter for each individual to co-operate with the Government and to make up their minds to prevent the same by all means in their power. Government have, no doubt, employed a number of officers, such as inspectors, supervisors and other staffs to check blackmarketing, and are spending a large sum of money over them, but that alone will not effectively tackle and put down blackmarketing, unless people also co-operate with them in their efforts.

“ Now, Sir, let me come to the question of loans and finances. I was surprised, Sir, at the suggestion of the hon. Leader of the Opposition in asking us to take a loan from a country which has more than half the total quantity of bullion in the world on a twenty-year basis. Sir, I know that America is the richest country in the world where they have got more than half the gold in this world and if we are to seek a financial accommodation from them, we will have to bind ourselves for our life-time and not only that, but we shall have also to bind our sons and daughters, because I do not know what will happen twenty years hence. If we seek to obtain anything like five hundred million dollars from America at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, we would be putting ourselves into the same plight as other debtor countries in the world are now put to, and undergo the same sufferings, hardships and handicaps as they are undergoing, and this policy would involve this country into a long-term debt. We would get into a national debt, not for any capital machinery or implements which we so badly need for our country, but merely for food, which we are unable to produce in this country. Surely, Sir, we cannot think of getting into such a thing, because we are seeing how another eastern country has got into all sorts of troubles and difficulties through getting gold and some financial accommodation from western countries. They have had to introduce indirect taxation by inflation. Therefore the Government should be doubly careful in entering into such sort of arrangements which will bind ourselves and our posterity for decades together.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ I did not say six per cent interest, Sir. I only said six per cent as the maximum dividend that should be paid on the foreign capital invested in this country. I did not mention either loan or interest, Sir.”

* MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—“ I beg the hon. Member's pardon, Sir. I probably misunderstood him. Then what is it that

[Mrs. Mona Hensman] [27th November 1948]

he wanted this country to get from America? I will ask the hon. Leader of the Opposition if he did not mention the sum of five hundred million dollars as the possible amount that might be borrowed by this Province or by this country?"

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I did not say that this Province or this country should borrow from America. I simply suggested that the American capitalists might be attracted to invest their capital for the industrial development of this country on which we might pay a dividend up to a maximum of six per cent. That is all what I have said, Sir."

* MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—" Then, Sir, I regret I have not understood him properly, but I repeat, Sir, that we cannot contemplate heavy foreign loans."

" Then, Sir, as for the 10 crores of rupees that was referred to yesterday as the Japanese reparation for war damages to this country, it was with very great pleasure and interest that I heard the proposal of the Central Government and the promise they have made to this Province that they would give Rs. 5½ crores out of that amount as our share of compensation for the loss sustained by this Province, during the war, and I hope that some constructive schemes will be worked out by this Government and placed before those in authority in the Central Government, by means of which we will get this additional 10 lakhs tons of rice that we require year after year without payment till the 5½ crores is absorbed."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The Hon. Minister for Food wants about half-an-hour for his reply. I hope that the hon. Lady Member will soon finish, so that the Hon. Minister's reply to the debate may be finished before lunch."

* MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—" Sir, I have got only one more thing to say and it is this. I trust, Sir, that the present system of rationing may be worked out on a sound basis, so that the unpleasantness, hardships and difficulties that were caused to the people during the earlier period might be removed and that rationing is not only brought forward now, but continued for many years, so that we do not get into this destructive element again and encourage the worst in human nature."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, as the Hon. Minister for Food is to make his reply soon, I shall finish my speech as early as possible. I want to bring only a few facts to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Food. Sir, the increased price for paddy is proposed to be given by the Government from January next, but the short-term crop in the districts of West Godavari, Krishna and East Godavari has come into the market even a month before. People have sold their produce in the market at a lower price. I say that in fairness to them, they who have helped to ease the food situation earlier should be treated fairly by the Government, and the Government must consider their case and see that the difference in price is paid to them. This is only a very reasonable request. They have sold their short-term produce even from the 15th October. So, I would once again request the

27th November 1948] [Sri M. Narayana Rao]

Hon. Minister for Food to consider their case sympathetically and see that they also get the benefit of the increased price which is proposed to be given to the producer.

"Sir, another thing I want to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Food is that the Andhra Congress Committee and the Andhra Kisan Congress Committee have resolved that Rs. 9 per maund should be the least price that should be fixed by the Government for paddy. I would request the Government to reconsider this question and see if their representation could be accepted.

"One more thing, Sir. As regards the Nellore special quality rice, the Government seem to have given a higher price for it than to the first quality rice that is purchased from Kistna, East Godavari and West Godavari districts. When I pointed out last time to the Hon. Minister for Food that in the Kistna, West Godavari and East Godavari districts, we have got the same quality of rice as is supplied by Nellore, he said that it was too late at that time to consider the matter, and that he would consider it next time. Therefore, I want to bring this to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Food to see that our rice is also paid the same price as the price paid for Nellore rice.

"Finally, Sir, I wish to point out that no strong case has been made out for the re-imposition of controls, except that the Government of India want that it should be adopted as an All-India policy, and that the Government, if left to themselves, would not have consented to this re-imposition of control. But I submit, Sir, that at least in surplus districts, no rationing need be enforced, because people were happy without rationing. If rationing is absolutely necessary, and if Government are afraid that prices will go up again and that food may not be available except at blackmarket price, I may suggest, that rationing may be confined to deficit districts. Sir, with these remarks, I close my speech."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members for the criticisms they have made on our food policy. On the whole, I feel, both the Opposition and the Members of the Congress Benches are exactly in a mood to support the attempts of this Government to tide over the present food crisis. I am indeed grateful to them for all the suggestions they have made and for sympathising with the Government in their plight to get over the food situation. Before replying to the various points raised in the course of the debate, I should like to make one or two general remarks. First of all, I want to tell this House, and I hope they realise it, that ours is a deficit Province in the matter of food. That is really the crux of the whole situation and that is the main reason for all our troubles. We want, as far as possible, and as far as it lies in our power, to make this a surplus Province. Then alone would we be able to see the end of our difficulties and when once we are able to produce more food than we require, prices will naturally come down and the food situation will be greatly eased and the Government will then be able to stipulate and fix a fair sale-price for the foodgrains and take all the necessary measures to ensure adequate supply and also check rice in prices and thus handle the situation very easily. Until then we have got to control

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

[27th November 1948]

the food and unless it is controlled, we will not be able to have a fair and equitable distribution. Under the present circumstances, what the Government can do is to procure as much as possible from the surplus districts and make an equitable distribution of the food which is procured and which is necessary for our very existence. That alone the Government can commit themselves to. The Government must therefore be permitted to take all measures to secure as much foodgrains as possible by means of intensive procurement and to distribute the food at their disposal equitably and at fair prices.

“ Sir, it is a very difficult thing to speculate upon food production, because it depends upon various factors which cannot be determined beforehand and which is beyond our control. The rains, for instance is a factor on which depends food production. Then there is the pest which has a great part to play with regard to production. Then again the fertility of the soil and the nature of the land; the provision of manure and the availability of agricultural implements and the interest the ryot takes to produce more—all these are factors that go into play in the matter of increased food production. In dealing with this question, I must here and now state that without the protective hand of the Government of India, with regard to import and bulk purchase from outside the country, it will not be possible to deal with the food situation properly and satisfactorily. It is not a question of mere import from a particular country outside, Sir. India has got to go to all countries where there is a surplus of food to be exported, and it is the International Food Council which stipulates the quota, fixes the price and arranges for the import and distribution of food from surplus countries of the world; and the Government of India which has a place in the International Food Council has to play a very important part in the matter. It is not such an easy matter, as some of the hon. Members think, that could be handled by our importing merchants in Madras. Perhaps from here and there, our importing merchants in Madras may be able to bring the food necessary for us in the City and that too at a tempting price, but they will not be able to secure such a large quantity as to feed the whole population of this Province. They may feed a few individuals here and there, but it is a very huge task to feed the entire population and it will not be possible for them to manage it. Therefore the argument that if private merchants are allowed to do so, they would tackle the problem effectively is not at all correct. Under this International arrangements, we get the minimum prices that could be charged for the foodgrains coming to us by the International check and International arrangements. As I said just now, the price is already fixed by the International Council, and since we have to arrange for shipments and meet the incidental expenses on it, we have necessarily to put up our costs on it and fix a price at which we can distribute it to the people. Therefore we have necessarily to control our prices. We cannot with any privilege ask the International Food Council to give us whatever quantity of food we want and at whatever prices we like, when we ourselves are not able to produce the necessary food within our country and when

27th November 1948]

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

we are ourselves not able to procure foodgrains at a lower price within the country. Therefore, Sir, price control is very necessary in our food control policy.

“ Therefore it is that every time we put up the prices of foodgrains we have got to get the consent of the Government of India before we do so. It is not as if one can say : I will pay so much price for paddy. It is the Government of India who have got to be satisfied with the prices that are given because it is they who negotiate with the international countries with regard to our prices on the basis of which their import prices are settled. I am just trying to explain the relation of the Government of India with the various other Provincial Governments that have got to deal with the situation. The whole question of food is one for the Government of India and we as a Province have got to give our complete co-operation to the Government of India with regard to production, etc. So it is that we have got to go and meet very often; sometimes we meet once in two or three months in consultation with the Government of India and more than twice in a year with the Government of India and the States and decide upon our prices and upon our policy and upon our production. All these things are connected with food production. Sir, the Government of India also are buying enormous amounts of foodgrains and they are paying large amounts for such purchase. They have been paying to such an extent that it made them seriously think whether they should go on procuring at this rate. The whole of the revenues of the Government of India or at least a major portion of it goes only for buying foodstuffs from the International market to make our people live. When a good portion of it is taken away by this, very little is left for the Government of India in the finances of the country to meet other demands that are made. Therefore they have been obliged to go into the question of food control very often. They tried decontrol and they gave it a fair trial. Whether they did investigate the provincial position or not is not the question. They decided to decontrol and we fell in line with them simply for the reason that we could not afford to have a separate food policy. Let us see what has happened to the decontrol. Hon. Members in the House said that we did not allow people to die and there is no famine coming. Quite true. But will the same set of conditions continue this year is a point that we will have to consider. I am afraid to say, Sir, that we are nearly at the breaking point with regard to the rising prices of foodstuffs in the country on account of decontrol. That must be said clearly and if I agreed to a complete reintroduction of control it was because we have by this one year's experience found that we were not able to control the rising prices. It is true that producers get a little more price. There is no denying the fact. But it must also be known that the price of foodgrains went beyond the capacity of the ordinary poor man. That is what happens. There are 99 poor men as against one rich man who can afford to pay high prices. Therefore the Government of India has to see that the whole lot of our people are given at least their minimum quantity of food. So, Sir, they decided that the only way to control this

1-15
p.m.

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan] [27th November 1948]

galloping prices beyond the control of the ordinary man was to control the food that we have got at our disposal and securing food from the various other sources where it can be got and then distributing it pro rata according to the rationing system. It may be true that a few producers here and there may not like our going back to rationing. But as against them a large number of people who are also producers are there. As it is, Sir, agriculture, except in a very few cases where people own large tracts of land and employ labour, is not found to be a profitable concern. The agricultural industry is not a profitable concern for a small holder owning an acre or two or less than 5 acres. Therefore when control becomes necessary the control of prices also becomes necessary particularly in securing to the Government all the foodgrains from the surplus producers. Yesterday, Sir, Sardar Patel was saying in Benares that we must give up our selfishness and go and meet our people with a generous heart, particularly people who need our help and we should not resort to blackmarketing. This is very good advice. But for some inexplicable reason people's appetite for making more money has become so great in this country in all walks of life and much more so with regard to foodgrains. While they do not produce food themselves, still they hope to procure enormous profits by selling food and foodgrains. That is one of the important lines of the merchant classes to-day. What happened last year? They went from town to town and procured from the producers all the available quantity of foodgrains by all means and stored them and then by distributing them made profits. That is not good at all. That is really blackmarketing that happens. It is not as if all our people take a delight in blackmarketing on a stuff so necessary for life as food. Yet we can see what is happening to-day. It is true they go to that extent in spite of the measures that we take and the amount of law that we bring to play with regard to these controls. We are not able to deal with this question because it is a universal proposition concerning every man, woman and child. And nothing in the world will prevent our people from getting the food if they could get it. Therefore in a commodity like food which becomes a necessity of life control becomes very very difficult and therefore it is necessary for us to bring pressure and secure all that could possibly be secured. But it has been proved that when the control was on the prices of foodgrains were less than when they were decontrolled and after decontrol the prices went up to 200 or 300 per cent and that cannot be permitted again. Therefore it has become necessary that this control should be reintroduced. But in introducing this control again we cannot but be benefited by past experience so that in the introduction of control again we can as far as possible tide over the many pitfalls that we experienced in the last control period. Whether that proposition would alleviate the cry of our people or would make us all more generous and less selfish is a problem which I cannot answer. But we can all try and see what we are able to procure is at least shared with the common man and give him such an amount that is possible to give. Therefore we argued with the Government of India when the question of

27th November 1948] [Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

control was reintroduced: 'For God's sake we cannot continue this 8 oz. and 6 oz. in our country. It may be we have kept our population on a margin of starvation for a long time but we cannot go on very long like this. You must now allow us to work on a minimum of 12 oz. at least.' And that was our condition for taking back control. So working at the rate of 12 oz. we have put our demand to the Government of India and that demand has come to about 10 lakhs of tons. All these years we have been drawing from the Government of India up to a margin of 2½ lakhs tons on an average. This year we have drawn as much as 6 lakhs of tons because we had a famine and the failure of the monsoon last year. And for the coming year we have made a demand for over 10 lakhs of tons working on the rate of 12 oz. as the minimum requirement per capita for our people. (Sri N. Venkatachalamaji: Dehusked rice or polished rice?) Dehusked rice, Sir, contains 5 per cent more food. I am not talking about that now, Sir. I am talking on general terms. When we get rice whether it is dehusked or polished it does not matter.

"This 10 lakhs of tons is there which we have asked for. That is our contention with the Government of India. In regard to this question, Sir, we will have to see whether the Government of India could give us 10 lakhs of tons. That is a matter on which all Provincial Governments will have to depend upon the influence of the Central Government. It might however happen that the Government of India may not be able to give the full quotas allotted by them under certain circumstances beyond their control. They may not be able to fulfil their obligations to the Provincial Governments. It is just possible. (An hon. Member: What is the ration in other Provinces?) It varies from Province to Province. As far as we are concerned we do not want to give 6 oz. and 8 oz. like last year. Now we have increased the ration to 10 and 12 oz. In the budget, we have prepared we have estimated the food requirements of our people at the rate of 12 oz. from January 1949. But even now we have already increased our ration from 8 to 10 oz. But on this scale of ration we should not think that everything is all right. We as a Government are giving foodgrains in rice, in ragi, in cholam and in kambu. Last year there was a hue and cry with regard to the grains that we supplied. People said: We are not used to these grains which you are shoving on us. I must say this, Sir. When food is a scarcity and to procure it is so much more difficult, would it be given to a hungry nation to say, 'I want one particular food which I am used to?' We cannot satisfy people, Sir, on that score. We are trying to secure as much rice as we can but if we cannot secure that there are other grains available and I request the public of this Province to condone the Government and try to help us as far as possible by taking as many grains as we can secure and give them. But unfortunately in the Madras Province we are all rice-eating people, at least a majority are. We know there was an effort the year before last when the Government wanted to popularize foodgrains to which we are not accustomed and wheat was imported. To-day we have educated our people to accept wheat though reluctantly. Therefore, if we

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan] [27th November 1948]

give cholam or kambu, it is because we have got only that and people have got to take themselves to them. Otherwise, they will have to go starving. Between these two alternatives, which is better? "

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" The villagers are not accustomed to wheat so much as rice."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is not a question of villagers liking it or not. I am talking of the food problem. The food problem has reached such a stage when we cannot look to the tastes of the people who live in particular areas. It is not a question of taste. I find several criticisms in the papers saying that we are not at all mindful of the tastes of our people. When there is the threat of starvation, it is not the time to think of taste. If it is possible to control the prices so that people can pay, people should not think of taste. They can take anything to satisfy their taste by paying big amounts and Government have no objection to it. As my hon. Friend, Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar said, there are hotels where one can get 'Chota Hazri' in the morning. But how many people are prepared to go to the hotels? That is a factor which we have to consider. We are not concerned with people who want to go to hotels for their food or who want to go to coffee houses."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Is the Hon. Minister likely to take some more time? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I would like to continue after lunch but I just want to finish this portion of my speech. Therefore, Sir, people should take and accept the food that the Government are able to procure. We are doing our best to procure rice but if we cannot procure sufficient rice, then, there must be some merchants or members of the public at large who should take up this question of procurement of rice."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2-30 p.m."

The House then rose for lunch.

(After lunch-2-30 p.m.)

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, just at the commencement of the debate, the Leader of the Opposition asked for information on many points. I was not able to give the information immediately but I have since obtained the information and I would give it for the benefit of the House. The allotments of foodgrains from the Government of India for years commencing from 1943 are as follows :—

	TONS.
1943-44	73,000
1944-45	146,000
1945-46	604,000
1946-47	251,000
1947-48	596,600

27th November 1948] [Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

Then, Sir, he wanted the amount of subsidy borne by the Madras Government. This subsidy relates to the price of imported grains. It is as follows.

“ The subsidy borne by the Government of Madras up to 1st October 1948 is Rs. 3.26 crores. From 1st October 1948, it is Rs. 32,25,000. The total amount of subsidy borne by the Madras Government is Rs. 3.58 crores.

“ Then, Sir, taking the surplus districts alone into account, the percentage increase in the cost of cultivation ranges from 114.3 to 209.6 since 1939 and by 10.7 to 48.9 as compared with that of last year. The increase in prices as at present sanctioned represents an increase of 275 per cent over the pre-war prices. This also takes into account the increase in the cost of essential commodities other than rice which ranges from 259 to 315 per cent. As compared with the prices just before control was introduced, the increase in the wholesale price of rice now sanctioned works out to about 100 per cent. I am glad the Leader of the Opposition called for these figures. Sir, people who ask for foodgrains and more foodgrains should remember what these more foodgrains cost. Not only it costs the Government of India but it also costs the Government of Madras Rs. 3.58 crores, which represents one-third the loss during the period 1st January 1948 to 30th September 1948 and one-fourth from 1st October 1948 onwards. Therefore, hon. Members can understand that the Government of India have paid more than three-fourths on this item and the amount spent by them will easily come to about 12 to 15 crores, if worked up properly. Altogether this amount was spent from Government resources, both the Government of India and the Madras Government put together. I am just thinking what amount of injustice and injury is done to society as a whole and to the tax-payer by these blackmarketers and others who sell foodstuffs at high prices. They trade not only on the foodstuffs procured in this Province by the Government but also on the food imported into this Province and given to this Government by the Government of India for which we have to pay about 3.58 crores. These blackmarketers in foodgrains are selling at 200 or 300 per cent profit, and this is a horrid injustice to society. This blackmarketing in grains either by ordinary merchants or those who take part in blackmarket businesses is an intolerable thing and no Government can go on under these black-marketing conditions.

“ Sir, here is a resolution which the Hon. Dr. John wants to move and which says : ‘ That this Council recommends to the Government to press upon the Government of India to allot 10 lakhs of tons of foodgrains over and above the allotments already made this year to tide over the serious food situation in the Province.’ I am thankful to him for that resolution and the Madras Government have already taken action on that. They have asked the Government of India to make up this deficit and I hope this resolution going to the Government of India from this Legislature will certainly help us if we need such a help. But,

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan] [27th November 1948]

apart from that, we want the legislators to realize how much money we will have to pay if this import of ten lakhs comes through the Government of India. Till recently, till two years ago, the Government of India bore the whole burden for these imports, last year, they have been asking us to pay one-third and now they have reduced it to one-fourth. That means to say that out of the enormous prices which the Government have got to pay for all those imports, we have to contribute one-fourth. We could have imports as much as we can but we have to pay a large price. I just want to remind Dr. John whether any private merchant, if he is allowed to import, can pay this amount. Even when the Government of India are making purchases in the international market at protected rates, we have to give this subsidy. Then, would an ordinary purchaser be able to get those imports? I am saying this just to show that it is not at all possible for the Government to allow private merchant to import these foodgrains. Barring his ability to do so, there is the utter impossibility under the existing conditions. Here, it is a question of the whole nation that has got to be fed and therefore I put it to the House to realize what these food import mean. Unless the burden is borne by the tax-payer all over the country and unless the Government of India give the first priority in regard to it, these food imports could not be got. That is why, Sir, the Government of India are more anxious to see that more food is grown in this country. There were remarks made by hon. Members here about the poor response with regard to increased production. I must say till the question became so very acute and the problem of import also assumed such tremendous proportions, the consciousness of our people and the Government also was not awakened to the real fact about our food production. Previous Governments existed for hundreds of years but they were more bent upon collecting the revenues rather than increasing production. When other countries are producing large quantities of foodstuffs, our country has done very little. It is only during the last two or three years, the Government are devoting their attention to more production. The Government of India are now encouraging 'Grow More Food' and they are subsidising the Grow More Food Campaign year after year for the last five years. They have provided sums to the tune of nearly five crores of rupees for this campaign of more production and the Grow More Food Scheme, as it is called.

2-45
p.m.

" Sir, there was another gentleman here who said that this well-sinking subsidy scheme is a nonsense and that it has proved futile. I do not know on what basis he made that statement. Sir, with regard to the number of wells sunk, we have got the figures ready. In all these wells, there is water also. But the real question is how much acreage of land, the water in these wells would serve to irrigate. In fact that is the bigger problem. But as it is, we expect that these newly sunk wells would help in producing nearly a lakh of tons more of rice, spread over a period of two to three years. Even supposing there are these wells, and also the water necessary for irrigation of the fields, still food

27th November 1948]

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

does not come all at once, because the ground has to be ready and then only the foodcrops could be grown on it. And it will, no doubt, take quite a long time, before we could realize our target. When we take this Grow More Food Campaign, I might at once say that we are now in the very initial stages of agricultural improvement, neglected for the past 400 years or so, and taken up now by a national Government. But the responsibility of the national Government to feed the people does not cease on that account, and therefore it is that we are obliged to be carrying on procurement of all that we need and are decided upon getting.

" I know a lot of corruption has crept into the services, and in areas far remote from the cities. The village officers have to go about levying a toll of foodgrains. I admit that this affects the poor man. But while making our calculations in regard to procurement, we have been very careful to see that the requirements of the producers themselves are well provided. We have issued instructions—and I hope these instructions are carried out, because it is our own men that carry out these orders—regarding this procurement of foodgrains. The general public also has got to know that they have got certain rights with regard to what they produce. They must realize that it is not all they produce, that is wanted by the Government. And after all Government are buying these foodgrains not for themselves, but only for distribution to hungry people. So these producers must come out, and give all that they have less what portion they are permitted by the Government to retain for their own use. We have provided for as much as one pound per day per head; the seed grains also have been provided for. The demands of those who work for him in the production of food, also have been provided for in the amount that is allowed to be retained by him. If a man still comes and says: 'All my food has been taken away', it means only this, that he is such an ignorant fool that does not know what the Government want, or that he is a knave that does not tell the truth. But the fact remains that the quantity of food that is ordered to be left with him, by the Government has been very specifically laid down in the instructions which have been issued to the officers of the Department, who are to carry out these.

" Recently a month back, I had a conference of these producers of this Province, then I went into the whole question in great detail, and all these facts that I have now placed before you, I have placed before them also. It is not as if they know nothing about it. They know these fully well. Besides, I had a conference in two batches of the District Collectors from all over the Presidency, when I spoke to them for nearly two hours every time and detailed very clearly how this procurement policy has to be carried out. Literally, I made as much as to say that there is so much of corruption prevailing, and explained how it prevails, and how that could be put down. These Collectors have noted down all these, and so are quite clear about the instructions that we have given them.

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

[27th November 1948]

Besides, Sir, there are District Committees in every district, all of which have been revived, and have been asked to consider the food situation in each locality and make recommendations to the Government with regard to the stocks held by the people of that locality and their requirements.

Having said these things, I am aware of the fact that there are still a large number of people who have to be fed. And here the village officials have to be watched. In fact, I know in some villages, they were only very happy to learn that controls are going to be introduced. It is because, they could have an income of their own. Food laws being so strict, and being laws which could not wait for appeals, but demand for executive action immediately, —there is no provision of law which can empower the court to go into all these things—we have necessarily to fall back upon our own men to do the work. The pity of it is they are all our own men, we cannot now accuse them, because they are no longer under a foreign Government, they are now under their own Government, and are to collect the food required for their own people. This is the real picture.

Having made this picture quite clear, and done our best to secure all that we want from the producers of our own Province, and from imports from other countries, we have now to ask the Government of India to give us some quota. There are Provinces in India which could give us some foodgrains. It is therefore not as if we merely secure the foodgrains available in our own Province by way of procurement. We are also commandeering foodgrains from those other Provinces that constitute the Union of India, which could spare some foodgrains for us. Only the Government of India have the power to say how much quantity of foodgrains shall move from one surplus Province to another deficit Province. So, there is this inter-Provincial movement of foodgrains, imports from outside, and also commandeering of the production in the home Province. I have already acquainted the House with the efforts we have already made to produce more food, and the information as to how the Grow More Food Campaign is working.

There is only one other thing, to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members of the House. It is this. The Government of India are not issuing any bonuses to the producers, as they did in the past few years. No doubt, the Government of Madras got a bonus of about As. 8 per maund of rice that they procure. But the Government of India stipulated that these As. 8 should be spent in producing more food, in developing the land, and in encouraging the food production in the way best suited to the Province and in meeting the loss incurred in the distribution of foodgrains. That is the understanding with which we are given these eight annas. Therefore, in all these matters, we have fallen in line with the Government of India for we have felt not only the need, but the justice of the demand that we are making, and the claim that is made by the people of this Province.

There were a few other statements, Sir, made without sufficient thought, to the effect that the food situation is not critical. I may tell the persons responsible for that statement,

27th November 1948] [Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

that the case is just the other way about. I want to remind this House of the Bengal tragedy. Millions of people died of starvation; but the most gruesome picture is that they did raise sufficient food in Bengal; and while there was plenty of food, people died of starvation. This is something which nobody can explain. But those unscrupulous people who hoarded the grain for trade purposes and refused to put them in the market for purchase, and committed the crime, are people who held very high places in the ministerial sphere. They were all in league with these black-marketeers, with the result that lakhs of people died in Bengal, and the Bengal tragedy got an international reputation. I may say, one of the results it has produced is that the International Food Conference has gained concrete reality, and the Government of India have been able to have their say in this International Food Conference, with regard to their demand for food.

“ Sir, I think I have practically answered all the questions that have been raised. I have explained clearly, as far as it is in my power to do so, the implications of the food policy of this Government. But there is one other question which I have not so far touched, and that is concerned with prices. I have already given statistics as regards the percentages of increase. A cry has been made and particularly from responsible quarters, for instance from Malabar, the President of the Kerala Congress Committee has written an article on the subject in “ Mathurbhoomi ”—that the Madras Government have been unfair to Malabar, simply on account of the policy of prices which they have announced recently. I am very sorry to learn that from him. I must say that the policy of prices has to be announced at certain times in the year, and has to be in force, for say, one year or more. If people who have given paddy to the Government have given it some fifteen days or three weeks ago, they may not be getting the advantage of this increased price. But in the next instalment of paddy they give us, they will be getting this increased price. It is absolutely unfair to say that we had a motive in fixing up a date for announcing our policy regarding increased prices. These prices, Sir, were issued after very deep consideration. The Collectors of the Province, the Agricultural Department, and the reports of various villages and districts, on the prices that are prevailing now, and the personal requirements of the families of these producers, have all been of very great use to us. After this only, we fixed the target for our prices. I say, that the Government of India were not agreeable to this. They said that the prices we have fixed are too high, and therefore should not be allowed. But we said that in the interests of our procurement campaign, this price at least has to be given; otherwise, our procurement campaign will be retarded in its progress. I have consulted a number of producers, and in fixing the prices, I myself, who claim to be an agriculturist, and the Hon. Premier of the Province, have bestowed our great attention on this problem for days together, have had a good deal of correspondence with the Government of India on the subject, and then only fixed these prices. I should perhaps emphasize the fact that these prices are no mean prices. Our agriculturists are pleased with them, and are prepared to give us foodgrains at these rates.

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan] [27th November 1948]

They do not think they have been unfairly treated. It may be that they do not get the profits of the industry, which they would have got, if the prices had been allowed to soar according to the market fluctuations, but we cannot allow that, and it is therefore that we said that this fair price shall be fixed. That is the best that Government could do. And when we fixed these prices, we had absolutely no district in our mind. We had the whole Province in our mind, while thinking of the target that we had to fix. We had also in mind the tragedy which occurred in Malabar some years ago, and the loss in life that was occasioned in that famine-stricken area. Sir, Malabar does not produce enough food for its inhabitants, some 440 lakhs or so, in number. It is a chronically deficit area, which lives only by imports that are supplied to them by the Provincial Government. Therefore, Sir, it is our pleasure and pride to say that we have not so far allowed Malabar to get into a state of famine. Nor have we allowed this Province to get into any starvation tragedy. With the failure of the monsoon, with districts dry for months, with tanks without a drop of water for a year or more, particularly the districts of Tinnevely, Madura and Ramnad have been faced with the threat of a famine, and this indeed was very startling. But we have been able to manage the situation, on account of the Government of India's goodwill, by keeping so many centres where foodgrains have been stored. And to-day I may say we have got about two lakhs of tons at our disposal in those granaries. It is because of this policy of ours in having storage centres, that we have been able to avert the famines that were about to make their ghastly presence. We could move these foodgrains on from these centres to any districts that are in need of them, and may come to the rescue of the starving millions of our Province.

3 p.m. "I want Malabar to realize that they of all the districts have no reason to complain. We have been very fair with them. We have not tried to deprive poor Malabar people of their just rights. This procurement will go till the end of the year. The price programme is for the Kharif year—from the end of October to the beginning of November next year. It has been suggested that the kharif year should be changed into fasli year. We have to keep in step with the Government of India. We are now in communication with the Government of India whether the kharif year can be changed into fasli year. But as long as the price is fixed for a whole year, there will be no injustice to anybody.

"Sir, this procurement is a very painful process. We are not all very happy about it. But we want and we seek the complete co-operation of everyone in this Province—the co-operation of the producer to produce as much as he can, the co-operation of the merchant to sell the produce to the Government and not to sell it in the black-market. Treat us fairly. That is my appeal to the merchants. We want to be impartial and it is not our intention to withhold food from anybody. We seek the help of the press, the help of the man in the street, the help of the politician and the constructive worker. It is only in that way we can go on, carrying on till such time as the country becomes normal with regard to

27th November 1948] [Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

food requirements. I expect this would be in another two or three years. I plead in this House and through this House to the public at large, that whatever may be our differences in politics and many other things, there should be no politics in the question of food, there should be no question of linguistic divisions here. Food is the property of all the people. The Government, if it is worth anything, has got to secure food for the people and we want to secure it with the best will in the world."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I said there was no politics in food."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" There is, if you only see it. I do not want to go into that question now. I want all parties and agencies whatever may be the differences of opinion, to help us in the campaign of food procurement."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" What about my suggestion regarding the encouragement of private agencies for irrigation? "

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" That is not quite germane to the question before us.

" With regard to the distribution of manure, the Government have not enough manure to honour the coupons they have given. They have already decided to give cash. There are some difficulties in procuring manure and selling it cheaply. We decided to fix the price of manure. What happened was this: people began to trade in manure coupons. They gathered a number of coupons from ignorant villagers, bought our manure at controlled rates and sold it in the black-market at four to five times the price. To what depths the public conscience would descend was shown by this. This will give you an idea of the main difficulty we have to contend against. We are seriously thinking of decontrolling groundnut cake altogether so that there may be a free market and people who want it may go and purchase what they like. By our manipulations we will not put up the prices. The manure will be available to whomsoever wants it and he will not have the necessity of going to the black-market. Simply because we have an undertaking to supply manure at controlled rates, the poor agriculturist has been cheated of his dues and the manure intended for the land went into the black-market."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Are the Government having complete control of groundnut cake? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is 40 and 60 per cent. Even that we are seriously considering to give up."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Is bonus given for procurement of millets? "

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The bonus is given on the total quantity of foodgrains procured. Sir, an hon. Member asked about the polishing of rice. It is a crime which we are committing unconsciously in this country. Polishing was not at all known before and when we were taking whole rice without

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

[27th November 1948]

polishing we were more healthy and lived longer. (An hon. Member: We can't eat this unpolished rice.) Just imagine an hon. Gentleman saying that he can't eat this wholesome and good rice! I know how much mud and rotten stuff is adulterated with this rice by unscrupulous millets and that the quantity is reduced by polishing. We have now increased the price of rice only by Re. 0-1-4 per measure. It is not much considering the level of commodity prices. Sir, the difficulties of the food administration are so many that we cannot possibly carry it on successfully for any length of time unless we get the co-operation of the people."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The question is—

'That the food situation in the Province be taken into consideration and upon such consideration this Council recommends to the Government to press upon the Government of India to allot ten lakhs of tons of foodgrains over and above the allotments already made for this year to tide over the serious food situation in the Province.'

"I suppose the Government have no objection."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"No, Sir."

The motion was put and passed unanimously.

III.—TEXTILE CONTROL POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I move, Sir, that the Textile Control policy of the Government be taken into consideration.

"Sir, I have just now circulated a note on the subject to hon. members. I am sorry it could not be done earlier. If it is the wish of hon. Members that I should read it, I shall do so." (Hon. Members: 'Not necessary.')

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I think the intention is more to criticise you than to hear you. You may hear them speak and then reply."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Then I make the formal motion. Sir, when I just entered the House the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition gave me certain questions and asked for information on certain points. I shall give it here as it will be useful to the House.

"The quantity of cloth required for consumption in the Province in a year is 384,000 bales on a per capita basis of 12 yards which was the consumption in pre-war years. The quantity of cloth produced by mills in the Province in a year is 79,700 bales. The quantity of cloth produced by handlooms in the Province in a year is 288,000 bales. I have no information ready with me regarding the quantity of khaddar produced in the Province in a year. The quantity imported annually into the Province from other Provinces and also from outside India is 180,000 bales from Bombay surplus area, but no figures are available about imports from foreign countries. With regard to the quantity of cloth exported from the Province, 4,000 bales used to be exported every month

27th November 1948] [Sri H. Sitarama Reddi]

until recently. Now on account of the accumulation of stock, freer exports have been permitted and larger quantities have gone out. The actual figures are not available. This is so far as handloom cloth is concerned. No mill cloth is allowed to go out of the Province except 1,000 bales of Binny's for which we get replacements from outside mills. This is the information that I have. So far as the steps taken to make the Province self-sufficient are concerned, licences have been granted for several people to establish mills in this Province and they are awaiting the erection of the mills to improve production in the Province.

Then there is the question whether there is price control for all varieties of cloth imported and sold in the Province. So far as foreign cloth and yarn is concerned, I have already stated that there is no control. The Government of India do not propose to have control over foreign imported cloth and yarn. That has been made clear by me in answer to a question this morning. If there are any further points raised in the course of the discussion, I shall answer them in the end. Then, Sir, the other question put to me is whether there is any patronage in the production, importation and distribution of cloth and if so, the extent of the patronage. My reply is, there is no patronage. The hon. Member did not mean it and I am sure he was not serious when he put the question. I formally move the motion, Sir."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I expected the Hon. Minister to thank the Opposition and thank the Opposition sincerely for giving him an opportunity . . . "

3-15
p.m.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" He will do it later on."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" But unfortunately, he did not thank us for the opportunity given to him. But I think the statement he has given will supply the information which is sought after by the public very much. I wish, Sir, that this statement had been given to us at least last evening, as the Hon. Minister for Food chose to give us a statement on the Food policy yesterday. We have had no time to study this note and assist the Hon. Minister in the policy which he has adopted. I want to assure the Members of Government that the Opposition, at any rate the Opposition in this House, always wants to co-operate with them in their attempts to improve the lot of the common man, the public, and we would be only very pleased if we can give any assistance to the Hon. Minister for Industries. But unfortunately, this has been placed too late in our hands and I suppose by the time I finish, some of the Members will be able to study and give out their points of view. Apart from this, one thing which has struck me is that this Government are not taking adequate steps to encourage production of cloth and yarn in the Province. Before this particular Government took up office and when Mr. Prakasam's ministry was in office, instead of assisting production, there was a trade against textile mills in the Province and every discouragement was placed in the way of their producing the required quantity of cloth and yarn in the Province and it was

[Dr. V. K. John] [27th November 1948]

said that this was done in order to encourage khadder. But I read in the papers the other day that about six hundred thousand yards of cloth have been manufactured but there is no sale for them. Only less than half the quantity has been sold. Supporters of khadder have advanced many arguments, but they also expected that khadder cannot compete in price with mill-made cloth or even hand-loom cloth and also the quality is very coarse and people go in for mill-made cloth if they can or hand-loom cloth, but not khadder. They do not follow the advice of the khadder propagandists. I ask the Government, now that we are free, do not try to compete with machinery. Machinery has come to stay in textile industry; you cannot have hand-made products in this industry to compete with machine-made products. Hand-made motor cars and hand-made aeroplanes cannot compete with machine-made motor cars and machine-made aeroplanes. Sir, machinery has come to stay in this industry. What I would suggest to the Government is, let them have as many mills as possible started in the Province on a co-operative basis. A number of villagers can come together, Government can help them to have a mill on a co-operative basis; they can work the mill and they can take the profits, and there will be more production. What I want to emphasize is this: What is the quantity consumed, you said?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Three hundred and eighty-four thousand bales."

DR. V. K. JOHN:—"The quantity consumed, according to the Minister, is nearly four lakhs of bales, but the quantity produced is a very small portion of the quantity consumed, with the result that we have to depend on other Provinces and also other countries for our cloth. There is no control at all for imported cloth; so, if a person imports cloth at Rs. 2 per yard, he can sell it at Rs. 10 a yard, and there would be black-market there and Government do not seem to help people from black-marketing in cloth."

"Now, Sir, cloth is as necessary or nearly as necessary as food. Every man requires cloth and the Government's policy regarding cloth is in my opinion very unsatisfactory. We have not heard anything at all from the Government as to how they help the production of cloth. In fact, in this statement, I read nothing at all regarding the encouragement given to production of cloth in the mills as well as in hand-looms. I ask the Government to have a policy which will enable this Province to be self-sufficient in the matter of the cloth that we want for this Province; let us not import cloth from other Provinces of India or other countries of the world."

"Again, Sir, I am not sure that in the recent policy of giving licences, there has not been some injustice. Sir, this statement shows there were 22,177 retailers in cloth, but only 12,446 out of them have been selected and 1,542 new dealers also were given licences. Nearly half of the old retailers are without their former

27th November 1948] [Dr. V. K. John]

business at all. Similar is also the condition of the wholesalers. It may be that these retailers were not up to the mark, but they had a job and Government it appears have taken away that job from them in working out the scheme of licensing. When this licensing system was introduced in the City, Members of the Legislative Council were asked to recommend dealers. A large number of dealers came to me, particularly Muslim dealers in cloth. The Muslims had an apprehension whether they would get licences, and I assured them that as far as this Government was concerned, I know the Collector and also the Textile Commissioner—to whom I must pay a very good compliment—there was no communalism at all but they would not believe it. Later on, I recommended a few whom I knew and I found out that that apprehension was not justified at all and there was no discrimination against the Muslim dealers. Therefore, I am glad that while Government have made no discrimination at all on the ground of community—they might have made discrimination on the ground of merit—still, there is always a sort of patronage in the licensing and giving of permits and it is likely to be abused. If the Hon. Sitarama Reddi can go into every paper regarding the giving of licences and matters connected with it, of course there will be no patronage and I shall have no complaint whatever; but the position is that neither the Hon. Minister nor the Collector nor the Textile Commissioner can personally attend to everything. It is only a subordinate official who puts up the papers and I am not quite sure whether there has not been any serious injustice done. I have had many complaints in writing also which show that their jobs have been taken away and injustice has been done. In all these cases, injustice is likely and the best course to adopt is not to have this sort of licensing system which leads to patronage, but to produce sufficient cloth in the country and to make the cloth go into a buyer's market and not into a seller's market. To-day all necessities of life including food, cloth and everything else are in the sellers' market and not in the buyers' market. The best thing the Government can do to avoid criticism and to be just and fair to everybody is to encourage production. I ask them to do everything they can possibly do to encourage the mills in existence and the handlooms in existence and also to assist more mills and more handlooms to come into existence and thus solve the cloth problem in this Province by increasing the production and not by distribution and patronage, which is unavoidably and regretfully connected with that kind of distribution where the article is in short supply."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Mr. President, Sir, within the short time we had to glance through the statement kindly furnished by the Hon. Minister for Industries, I have picked out a few points on which I seek information. Regarding the movement of cloth and yarn from the surplus areas we find from what has been narrated here ‘ the movement is not as quick as we wish it to be ’; I would like to know what steps Government have taken to see that the allotted quota for each month is received in this Province, so that cloth may be available to the

[Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao] [27th November 1948]

consumers. The second point I wish to ask the Hon. Minister is about the representative buyers and the wholesale consignees. When the Control Order was issued, I remember the Government had an idea of having only wholesalers and retailers and the profit that they proposed to fix on the ex-mill price was to be divided between the wholesaler and the retailer. Is the interposition of this representative buyer and the wholesale consignee, going to affect the profits of the wholesaler and the retailer and also the price for the consumer? If it is going to affect the profit of the wholesaler and the retailer, what functions these representative buyers and wholesale consignees perform and how are they remunerated? Then, Sir, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition drew attention to the figures of wholesale licences and retail licences granted in this Province. Out of 2,094 wholesalers in cloth before, only 601 old wholesalers had got licence and 146 are newcomers. Was there need to choose these newcomers unless all the wholesalers other than the 601 chosen have been guilty of offences against the previous Textile Control Order? The same question I ask about the retailers. The Hon. Minister this morning in the course of an answer to a question said that Government had instructed the Collectors to choose as far as possible wholesalers who had a clean record. What was the necessity to choose these newcomers? Either all the wholesalers who were there were not performing the functions of wholesalers or they were guilty of offences against the order. I should like to have some information on these points. What was the need to cut down the number of wholesalers?

3-30
P.m.

Sir, we expected in this note, that information to be given. From what I read in the papers, fewer number of wholesalers had to be chosen because of the restricted quota of cloth available and the distribution had to be confined to a restricted number.

Then, the other point that I would like to ask the Hon. Minister for Industries is whether from the experience he has already gained, though I am a co-operator myself, he can say the co-operative organizations have been able to discharge the responsibility they undertook during these two or three months during which they have been in charge of distribution both of cloth as well as yarn. Sir, I raise this question more from the point of view of the consumer in the case of cloth and in the case of yarn from the point of view of the producer of handloom cloth. If these co-operative organizations have been discharging their responsibility satisfactorily, Sir, I think I am one of those who will favour their continuance in handling both cloth and yarn without yielding to the agitation set up by the traders that they should be deprived and the whole thing should be transferred to the normal trade channels. I believe Government chose these co-operative organizations as they practically serve, from the point of view of Government, the purpose of Fair Price Shops and as these are public organizations under the control and supervision of Government, subject to Government audit, the Government felt that they were choosing an organization on which they could rely. If these

27th November 1948] [Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao]

co-operatives have not been able to discharge their responsibility properly, have the Government tried to understand, why they have not been able to do so especially as they have done so well in regard to foodgrains and what steps the Government propose to take to assist these co-operative organizations to come up to the standard they have come to, in regard to the distribution of foodgrains?

"These are a few points that suggested themselves to me, Sir, as I went through this note and I am sure, if these points are cleared a good deal of misunderstanding that prevails regarding the working of the Textile Control Orders will be removed.

"Sir, my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, put a pertinent question and asked the Government, what they have been doing to increase production and he was also good enough to refer to a policy adopted by the previous Congress Ministry. I do not know, if the present Minister for Industries will feel it delicate to throw the blame on the one or the other. But I know, as one interested in the development of textile industry, it was the policy of the previous Congress Ministry that has retarded production ('hear, hear'), and it will take a long time for us to make up the leeway and that is why, Sir, though permits have been granted for so many companies to start fresh spinning mills and weaving mills, as we have not been in the field earlier, we have not been able to secure the machinery that we need and also in recent months, even capital has become very shy. If we had entered the field as in other provinces and in other places they did earlier, perhaps, Sir, a little more production could have been assured both in the handloom and in the mill cloth and perhaps we would not have been made to depend so much on the surplus areas for such large quantities of cloth and yarn required. I do not want to take up the time of the House, Sir, except raising these few points for the consideration of the Hon. Minister for Industries."

* K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—"Sir, in replying to one of the questions put by Dr. John, the Hon. Minister calculated the total quantity of cloth allotted to this Province at the rate of 12 yards per adult. Sir, in Bombay they are giving every adult 20 yards of cloth in the City, 18 yards in the suburban areas and 15 or 16 yards in the villages. I do not know why the Hon. Minister for Industries has put our quota of cloth at 12 yards per adult.

"Secondly, he has not mentioned the way in which even these 12 yards of cloth are to be met, whether it is from the mill cloth or from the handloom cloth. If it is from both we would like to know what percentage of mill cloth will be given. Sir, our Province is a poor Province and naturally we should like to have a larger percentage of mill cloth for our people. Therefore, I wish to impress this matter upon the Hon. Minister for Industries so that he may try to get the maximum amount of mill cloth for our people in this Province. Moreover, we people in the South use

[27th November 1948]

[K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur]

only cotton cloth throughout the year and should therefore get a larger quantity of cotton cloth than the people in the North who use woollen cloth in certain parts of the year.

“ Sir, regarding handloom cloth, the Hon. Minister for Industries said that, since this Province is given large quantity of yarn to be woven into cloth, our quota for mill cloth is reduced so that the consumption of handloom cloth may be increased. Sir, it would be unfair to say that because we manufacture a large quantity of handloom cloth in this Province, we should be compelled to have handloom cloth only and should be deprived of a large proportion of mill cloth. Sir, any casual perusal of the past history of the handloom industry must convince anybody that this industry does not owe its survival to internal consumption but mainly to exports to foreign countries like Ceylon, Burma and Federated Malay States. When during the last war, export of handloom cloth from this Province to those countries was stopped, we know to what hardships the weavers were subjected to on account of the cessation of exports. At that time, the Government were even driven to the necessity of giving relief to the weavers under the Famine Code. The Muslim League and some other philanthropic organizations also came to the rescue of these unfortunate people and organized relief for them. There is no doubt that the handloom industry of this Province owes its existence to exports to foreign countries. That being the case, we must see that a fair percentage of handloom cloth produced by these handloom weavers is exported to foreign countries. Now, Sir, on account of the recent ban on the export of these handloom products consequent on the inclusion of handloom cloth in the rationing scheme, a very large quantity of handloom cloth is lying stagnant in this Province. The merchants engaged in this trade have got on hand a large quantity of handloom cloth worth lakhs of rupees and they are incurring a heavy loss thereby. The various kinds of cloth which are accumulated now cannot be consumed by our Province. They are manufactured solely for the purpose of being exported to foreign countries. I do know, Sir, that the Hon. Minister for Industries would say that it is in the hands of the Government of India to lift the ban on exports. But is it not his duty to see that this industry does not suffer on account of the policy adopted by the Government of India? Is it not incumbent on his part to represent to the Government of India the grievances of the handloom weavers here and see that handloom cloth is allowed to be exported to the Far East and other countries? Sir, this is a matter which is seriously affecting an important section of the people of this Province and, therefore, I appeal to the Hon. Minister for Industries to take steps for relieving the sufferings of both the weavers as well as the merchants engaged in this trade.

“ Sir, regarding yarn, I must say that the yarn given to weavers does not last even for ten days in a month and hence for twenty days in a month they go without work. Thus they are not able to get even a living wage. Therefore, it is necessary that

27th November 1948]

[K. T. M. Ahamed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur]

the Government of Madras should try to impress upon the Government of India the need for a higher quota of yarn for handloom weavers in this Province. Sir, yarn produced in our Province is sufficient to meet the requirements of handloom weavers here but a portion of it is being exported to the Far Eastern countries. Cannot the Madras Government prevail upon the Government of India to allow us to retain all the yarn which is produced here? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" That is all, I suppose."

* K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, the handloom industry deserves encouragement at the hands of the Government of Madras and I would appeal to the Hon. Minister to take early steps to see that a proper quantity of yarn is allotted to the handloom weavers so that they may carry on their work throughout the month.

" Sir, as regards making our Province self-sufficient, I know that, when the Congress Government came into office, attempts were made in this Province, by certain persons, to start spinning mills. But on account of the policy pursued by the then Government, those mills could not be started. Even persons who were about to float limited companies for the purpose had to give up their idea. If only the Government had extended their helping hand, lakhs of rupees would have been invested and so many mills would have been started. Further, the then Government were not able to get the quota of spindles necessary for our Province from the Government of India.

" Sir, regarding the question of dealers, only 12,446 retailers out of 22,177 have been given licences. This is unfair. These people have been engaged in the trade all their life and what you are going to do for these and their employees who will now be thrown out of employment? Sir, have they been found guilty of grave malpractices?

" So, also in the matter of yarn dealers, the Government should seriously consider whether it is necessary for them to carry out this policy of throwing out of employment, these dealers numbering thousands. The Hon. Minister has not explained in his note the basis on which the wholesale and retail dealers for cloth and yarn have been selected. Is the selection left to the whims and caprices of the Collectors or have any qualifications been laid down which the dealers should satisfy for selection? My hon. Friend, Dr. John, said that he was satisfied that Muslims had not been left out. If figures about the total number of Muslim dealers in the Province and the number selected under the Textile Control policy are given, it will enable us to verify the correctness of the statement of Dr. John."

3-45
p.m.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think the hon. Member need not take time fishing out points. If he has points ready he may speak on them."

[27th November 1948]

* K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ With regard to the distribution of yarn, this morning a complaint was made about the non-availability of finer counts of yarn. But I have been receiving complaints, especially from weavers in the Tirunelveli district, that they are not able to get lower counts of yarn which they have been accustomed to use in their handlooms. I request the Hon. Minister to consider this point.

“ As regards the distribution of yarn through the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society, I have to point out that the Society is new to this kind of work and it has not got sufficient number of depots. Anybody can witness hundreds of weavers waiting at the Walajah Road Emporium of the Society from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and returning disappointed. Weavers residing in Krishnampet and Triplicane have to come all the way to the Walajah Road Emporium. It would have been better if depots had been opened in the quarters of the weavers themselves, instead of making them walk several miles wasting their time and return disappointed. I have received similar complaints from Tenkasi, Kadayannallur and several other places in Tirunelveli district. I request the Hon. Minister for Industries to see that the distribution is so arranged as to facilitate the weavers in securing their quota.”

SRI M. K. SUNDARAMA AYYAR :—“ தலைவர் அவர்களே, ஜவுளி நூல் கட்டுப்பாடு விஷயமாக கனம் மந்திரியவர்கள் மிகுந்த சிரத்தையுடன் சிறந்த முறையில் நடத்திவருவதால் ஏதோ சஷ்டப்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்த நெசவுக்காரர்களுக்கும் பொதுஜனங்களுக்கும் அனுகூலங்கள் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. ஆனால் இதை அமுல் நடத்துவதில் சில குறைகள் இருக்கத்தான் செய்யிறது. முதலில் லைசென்ஸ் கொடுப்பதில் சர்க்காருடைய திட்டம் வெளிவந்தவுடன், அது புதிதாக இருந்ததால், ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லா கலெக்டர்களும் ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லா சப் சபை அங்கத்தினர்களைக் கலந்து ஆலோசனை செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று கூறப்பட்டதால் அவர்களைக் கூப்பிட்டு யோசனை செய்தார்கள். சர்க்காருடைய உத்திரவுப் பிரகாரம் ஒவ்வொரு ஸ்டீம் ஜனங்களுக்கும் ஒவ்வொரு மொத்த ஜவுளி வியாபாரியும், ஒவ்வொரு ஐய்யாயிரம் ஜனங்கள் கொண்ட ஒரு வாகனத்தில் ஒரு சில்லரை வியாபாரியும் நியமனம் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று உத்திரவு இருந்தது. அப்படி பார்க்கும்போது மதுரை ஜில்லாவில் 26 ஸ்டீம் ஜனத்தொகை இருக்கிறது. ஏற்கனவே பழய கட்டுப்பாடு இருந்த காலத்திலும் சரி பின்னாலும் சரி மதுரை ஜில்லாவில் சுமார் நூறு பெரிய வியாபாரிகளும் 500 சொசைம் சில்லரை ஜவுளி வியாபாரிகளும் இருந்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது வந்த உத்திரவுப்படி ஒரு ஸ்டீம் ஜனத்தொகைக்கு ஒரு பெரிய ஜவுளி வியாபாரிபென்றால் நம் மதுரை ஜில்லாவிற்கு இப்பொழுது 26 மொத்த வியாபாரிகள் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்படவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. நம் முடைய நகரத்திற்கு ஜனத்தொகை ஈவுபடி இப்பொழுது ஆறு பேர்களைத் தான் தேர்ந்தெடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இதைத்தவிர இன்னும் எவ்வளவோ யோக்கியதயுள்ளவர்களும், கண்யமுள்ளவர்களும் இருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த தன்மையுடைய வியாபாரிகள் இன்னும் பலர் நம் நகரத்திலும் சரி பக்க கிராமங்களிலும் சரி இருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி இருக்கும்போது அவுனில் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் ஆறுபேர்கள்தான். மீத முள்ளவர்களுக்கு கிடையாது. நல்ல யோக்கியமுள்ளவர்களுக்கு லைசென்ஸ் கிடைக்கவே இல்லை. ஆனால் மதுரை ஜில்லாவிலும் எல்லா தாலுகாக்களிலும் புதுவியாபாரிகளைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்து அவர்களுக்கு லைசென்ஸ் கொடுக்கப்படும். இதனால் பழய வியாபாரிகளுக்கு எவ்வளவு கஷ்டம் ஏற்படும் என்று சர்க்கார் அறியவேண்டும். பழய வியாபாரிகள் என்ன

27th November 1948] [Sri M. K. Sundarama Ayyar]

செய்வார்கள்? அவர்கள் ரொம்பவும் ஷூட்டப்படுகிறார்கள். நகரங்களிலும் கிராமங்களிலும் துண்டு துண்டாக வியாபாரிகளை நியமித்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் முறை பார்த்தால் அங்கே வியாபாரம் ரொம்பவும் பாதித்துவிடும். இப்பொழுது நகரத்தில் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்ட மொத்த வியாபாரிகள்தான் அங்கேபோய் வியாபாரம் செய்ய வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. இதனால் அவர்கள் மிகவும் பாதிக்கப்பட்டு கஷ்டப்படுவார்கள். இதைப்போலவே சில்லரை வியாபாரிகளும் பர்திக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள்.

“இன்னும் இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் ஜவுளி கட்டுப்பாட்டினால் ஜவுளி விலை நாளுக்குநாள் இறங்கிக்கொண்டே வருகிறது. இதனால் கைநெசவு ஜவுளி ரொம்பவும் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. கைநெசவு ஜவுளி ஏற்றுமதியாவதே இல்லை. அதற்குக் காரணம் நம்தேசம் பூராவும் மஞ்ஜுனி விலை குறைந்து விட்டதால் கைநெசவு ஜவுளிகளுக்கு கிராக்கி இல்லை. இன்னும் இப்பொழுது நூல்களுக்கு மந்தம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. முக்காரணம் நம்மாகாணத்திலிருந்து கைநெசவு ஜவுளிகளை ஏற்றுமதிசெய்ய வசதி இருக்கவேண்டும். ஆனால் அதற்கு இப்பொழுது பர்மிட் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த பர்மிட் வாங்குவதற்கு இப்பொழுது ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. அதற்காக ரூபாய் ஒன்று ஆயிரம் கஜத்திற்கு டிராபிங் கட்டவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ஒவ்வொரு வியாபாரியும் வேண்டிய அளவு போட்டு பாரத்தில் எழுதி பூர்த்தி செய்து பர்மிட் பெறுவதற்கு இன்னும் கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. இம்மாதிரி கஷ்டங்கள் சில்லரை வியாபாரிகளுக்கும் இருக்கிறது, மொத்த வியாபாரிகளுக்கும் இருக்கிறது. பர்மிட் என்பது இல்லாமல் வைத்திருந்தால் அவர்கள் சௌகர்யமாக வெளியே ஏற்றுமதி செய்வார்கள். ஆகையால் பர்மிட்முறை என்பது கூடவே கூடாது, இன்னும் சிலர் உபயோகம் செய்யாதவர்கள் அதேகம் பர்மிட்டுகள் வாங்கி வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் வாங்கிவைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும் பர்மிட்டுகளை இப்பொழுது உபயோகிக்காமல் பின்னாடி அவகாசம் கிடைக்கும்போது அதை லாபத்திற்கு உபயோகித்துக்கொள்ளலாம் என்று அப்படியே வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அதனால் ஏற்றுமதி கணக்கு கண்டுபிடிக்க சர்க்காரிடம் சரியான கணக்குக்கிடையாகாது. ஆகையால் ஜவுளி ஏற்றுமதி விஷயத்தில் பர்மிட் முறை தேவை இல்லை என்று நினைக்கிறேன்.

“இதுபோக கைநெசவு ஜவுளி பெரும்பாலும் நல்ல நூல்களும் பெரிய நகரங்களாகிய மதுரை, கோயமுத்தூர், சேலம், காஞ்சிபுரம் முதலிய இடங்களில் உற்பத்தியாகிறது. இந்த இடங்களில் 60, 80 என்ற ரக நூல்கள் தயார் செய்யப்படுகிறது. நம் மாகாணத்தின் கோட்டாவைப் பார்த்தால் 1,220 பேல்கள்தான். இன்னும் அதிகமான பேல்கள் நம் மாகாணத்திற்கு தேவையாகியிருக்கிறது. நமது மாகாணத்திற்கு சன்ன நூல்கள் அதிகம் தேவையாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் கனம் மந்திரியவர்கள் மத்திய சர்க்காருக்கு தெரிவித்து, எழுத்துமூலமாக எழுதியோ அல்லது நேராகப்போகும்போதோ சொல்லி இன்னும் அதிகமான சன்ன நூல்கள் நம் மாகாணத்திற்குக் கொடுக்கும்படி கேட்டு கைநெசவு தொழிலை ஆதரிக்கும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இன்னொரு விஷயம் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. மில்லில் உற்பத்தியாகும் சன்ன நூலை அதிகமாக கிடைக்கும்படி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று. அதற்கு ‘no one can help in this matter’ என்று (யாரும் உதவி செய்வதற்கு இல்லை என்று) சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆகையால் இது விஷயமாக சர்க்காரே சிரத்தை ஏடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். சர்க்காரே கவனிக்க வேண்டும். சர்க்காரே இதற்குக் கடமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். தறிகாரர்களுடைய நிலைமை ரொம்பவும் பள்ளத்திலிருக்கிறது. ஏற்கனவே மில்ஜவுளிகளின் விலை குறைவால் அவர்களுடைய கைநெசவு ஜவுளி சரியானபடி விற்கப்படாமல் உற்பத்தியான சர்க்குடன் அப்படியே கையில் இருக்கின்றன. இப்பொழுது பணக் கஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டிருப்பதால் மில் நூல் வாங்க முடியவில்லை. அவர்கள் வசிக்கும் இடங்களுக்கு வாடகை ஜாஸ்தியாக இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது நடைமுறையில் இருக்கும் control-லினால் ஒரு தறிகாரருக்கு 80-ம் நம்பர் நூல் 5 பவுண்டுதான் கிடைக்கிறது. மாதா

[Sri M. K. Sundarama Ayyar]

[27th November 1948]

மாதம் அவர்களுக்கு 5 பவுண்டு கிடைத்தால் அவர்களுக்கு பத்து நாட்களுக்குதான் வேலை கிடைக்கும். ஆகையால் அவர்கள் 5 பவுண்டு வைத்துக் கொண்டு எப்படி காலம் கழிப்பார்கள் ?

“இன்னும் இந்தக் கூட்டுப்பாட்டில் நூல் விநியோகிக்கும் முறையில் அநேகம் கஷ்டங்கள் இருக்கிறது. 80-ம் நம்பர் நூல் கேட்டால் 30, 40 தான் இருக்கிறது என்று அதிகாரிகள் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். எனினன்றால் அதிகாரிகள் இந்த நூல்களிலுள்ள நம்பர் மத்தியாசங்களை அறிந்துகொள்ள வில்லை. அவர்கள் அறிந்துகொள்வதற்கு ஆறுமாத காலமாகிறது. அதற்குள் கூட்டுப்பாடுபோய் விடுகிறது. அதிகாரிகள் தெரிந்து கொள்வதற்குள் அவர்களை மாற்றிவிடுகிறார்கள். இந்த மாதிரி கஷ்டங்கள் எவ்வளவோ ஏற்படுகிறது. ஆனால் அதிகாரிகள் சுலபமாக பீனைத்து விடுகிறார்கள். நூல்களில் தரம், நம்பர் முதலியவைகளை கவனித்துக்கொடுத்தால் இந்த மாதிரி கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்படாது. தறிகாரர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய நூல் கொடுத்தால்தான் அவர்கள் சப்ளை செய்வார்கள். ஆகையால் அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய நூல்கள் கொடுப்பதற்கு கனம் மந்திரியவர்கள் மத்திய சர்க்காரிடம் கேட்டு இன்னும் அதிகமாக தறிகாரர்களுக்கு சன்ன நூல்களை சப்ளை செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். சன்ன நூல் தேவையுள்ளவர்களுக்கு மோட்டா நூலும், மோட்டா நூல் தேவையுள்ளவர்களுக்கு சன்ன நூலும் இப்பொழுது கொடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறதாகவும் புகார். அதை உடனே நிவர்த்தி செய்யவேண்டும்.

“இனியும் கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்கள் மூலமாக விநியோகம் செய்யப்போவதாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்களில் அனுபவமுள்ளவர்கள் இருக்க மாட்டார்கள். அவர்களிடம் பணம் கிடைப்பது. ஆகையால் அவர்கள் சப்ளைக்கு வேண்டிய நூல்களை வாங்குவது கிடையாது. அதனால் இன்னும் கஷ்டம் அதிகமாக ஏற்படும். இப்பொழுது நூலுக்கு கிராக்கி வரவா குறைந்து வருகிறது. சன்ன நூலுக்கு கொஞ்சம் கிராக்கி இருக்கிறது. மோட்டா நூலுக்கு இப்பொழுது கிராக்கி மையாது. ஆகையால் கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்களில் சரியானபடி விநியோகம் செய்யமாட்டார்கள். விநியோகத்தை சர்க்கார் ஏன் செய்யவேண்டும்? மில்காரர்களிடம் விநியோகத்தை விட்டுவிட்டால் நல்லதாக இருக்கும் என்று நினைக்கிறேன். ஆனால், ஒரு பயம் ஏற்படலாம். விலை ஜாஸ்தியாக அவர்கள் சொல்லிவிடுவார்களோ என்று. அதற்குப் பதிலாக சர்க்கார் விலையை control செய்து விடலாம். பதுக்குகிறவர்களை கொள்ளை லாபம் நிவர்த்தி செய்தால் Anti-Hoarding and Profiteering Act-ன் கீழ் நடவடிக்கைக்குக் கொண்டு வந்து விடலாம். அப்பொழுது சுலபமாக இருக்கும். அப்பொழுது பலடோகள் வந்து விடுவதால் லைசென்ஸ் முறை இருக்கவேண்டும். ஆனால், விநியோகம் செய்வதை சர்க்கார் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு பகிர்ந்து கொடுப்பது மிகவும் சிரமமாக இருக்கும். அது தேவையே இல்லை. இதை யோசனை செய்து கூடிய சீக்கிரம் இந்த விநியோகம் செய்யும் திட்டத்தை எடுத்து விரும்படி யோசனை கூறுகிறேன். இந்த விநியோகம் செய்யும் திட்டம் போய்விடும் என்று கனம் மந்திரியவர்களே தெரிந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். கூடிய சீக்கிரத்தில் இதை நிவர்த்தி செய்யவேண்டும். மத்திய சர்க்காரிடம் இன்னும் அதிகமான சன்ன நூல் கொடுக்கும்படி கேட்கவேண்டும். மில்காரர்கள் லைசென்ஸ் கொடுப்பதை இன்னும் பழைய வியாபாரிகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். யோக்யமுள்ளவர்களுக்கும், நல்லவர்களுக்கும் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இந்த முறைகளைக் கையாளவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

4 p.m.

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—“అధ్యక్షా, సాంఘిక ఉత్పాదక కార్యక్రమము కొలెక్టివ్లను గల సంస్కరణ కొరకు ఈ సంవత్సరం మొదల కొలెక్టివ్లను ప్రకటించి జరిపించ వలెనుకదా? ఇలా ఆశ్చర్యంగా ఉన్నది. విశుద్ధస్వరూపి గతాన్ని గురించి అనుకోని లాభంలేదు.

ఇదివరలో 2,094 మంది wholesale బట్టల వర్కరులు ఉండేవారు. కాని ఇప్పుడు ప్రభుత్వమువారు 601 మంది పాతవారిని, 146 మంది క్రొత్తవారిని ఏర్పాటు

27th November 1948] [Sri N. Venkatachalamaji]

చేసినారు. ఈ విధంగా ఏర్పాటు చేయబడినవారు చాలా కాలంనుంచి బట్టల వర్తకం సాగిస్తూ వీ విధమైన రిమార్కులు లేకుండా ఉన్నటువంటివారు. వీరు క్రభత్వం వారిచేత వాడివడగోయబడినటువంటివారు. అటువంటివారి దగ్గరనుంచుకూడా 5 వేల రూపాయల deposit ను కోరడంలాగే న్యాయమేమీ నాకు బోధపడుటలేదు.

“మరొక విషయాన్ని గురించి మనవి చేస్తాను. ఈ వర్తకులకు నూటికి రూ 2-0 ల లాభము మాత్రమే ఇస్తారు. కాని co-operative societies కు మాత్రము నూటికి రూ 10 ల లాభాలు తీసుకోడానికి అవకాశమిస్తున్నారు. ఇది చాలా అన్యాయంగా ఉన్నది.

“మరొక ఒక లక్ష జనానికి ఒక whole saler చొప్పున ఏర్పాటుచేశారు. అనగా ఈ wholesale వర్తకుడు తన గ్రామాన్ని విడిచి అందరు జనానికి అందుబాటులో ఉండేందుకు ఒకచోట కొట్టు పెట్టకోవాలి. ఈ విధంగా వేరు గ్రామానికి వెళ్లవలసి రావడంచేత establishment ఖర్చులు చాలా పెద్దగా అవుతాయి. నెలకు 15 వేల రూపాయల అమ్మకము ఇస్తున్నామనగా, రూ 450 ల వస్తాయికదా, అది అంటూన్నాడు కాని గుమాస్తాల జీతాలకి, ఇతర establishment ఖర్చులకు ఇది సరి పోదు. ఈ విషయాలను క్రభత్వంవారు తిరిగి ఆలోచించి ఈ వర్తకులకు గట్టుబాటు ఆద్యుటట్టుగా చూడగోరెను.

“మరొక విషయమేమంటే గుడ్డలో co-operative societies కు 33½% ఇచ్చి, నూలులో 50% ఇవ్వడం చాలా అన్యాయంగా ఉన్నది. ఇవివరల్లా co-operative societies కు కొంత నూలు కోటా ఇవ్వడంవల్ల గ్రామాలలో ఉన్నటువంటి నేతగాళ్లకు చాలినంత నూలు దొరకక పాధపడుతున్నారు. ఇటువంటి పద్ధితులలో ఇప్పుడు co-operative Stores కు 50% నూలు కోటా ఇస్తున్నారు. ఈ stores వారు ఇవివరలో వారి societies లో మెంబర్లుగా ఉన్నవారికే నూలు ఇస్తున్నారు కాని ఇతరులకు ఇవ్వటంలేదు. దీనివలన అనేకమంది నేతగాళ్లు నూలు దొరకక జీవనోపాయము కనుపించక చాలా పాధపడుతున్నారు.

“Co-operative societies కు నూటికి 50% ఎందుకు ఇచ్చారంటే, వర్తకులు blackmarket చెయ్యడంవల్ల ఇచ్చినామని క్రభత్వంవారు అంటున్నారు ఇది చాలా అన్యాయంగా ఉన్నది. co-operative societies వారు blackmarket చెయ్యటం లేదని ఎవ్వరూ వెళ్లలేదు. మా విశేషపుట్టడం బిల్లాలో, విజయనగరం తొబాకా, గజ పతి నగరం co-operative Stores వారు రూపాయకి రూ 11-11-6 లు చొప్పున ఎక్కువగా అమ్మినారు. వారు ఆ విధంగా చేస్తున్నట్లు నేను కలెక్టరుగారికి వ్రాసినాను. ఈ విషయంలో కలెక్టరుగారు దరియాప్తుచేయించి వానికి ఆ విధంగా చేయ వద్దని warning ఇచ్చినట్లుగా నాకు వ్రాసినారు. ఇదే ఎవరైనా వర్తకుడైనట్లయితే చాలా ఎక్కువ శిక్ష విధించి ఉండేవారే. ఈ విధంగా co-operative societies వారుకూడా blackmarket చేస్తుండేవారికే తిరిగి నగము నూలు ఇవ్వడం చాలా అశుచర్యంగా ఉన్నది కాబట్టి ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఈ విషయముల నన్నింటిని తిరిగి ఆలోచించి అనేక సంవత్సరములనుంచి బట్టల వ్యాపారము చేస్తున్నటువంటి వర్తకులకు న్యాయము కలుగజేస్తారని ఆశిస్తున్నాను.”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Mr. President, I just want to ask two questions of the Hon. Minister for Textiles. The first is this. In this note on the textile control policy of the Government, it is stated that 'after taking delivery of cloth and yarn at the mill premises, the representative buyers

[Abdul Latif Farookhi Sahib Bahadur] [27th November 1948]

will book the goods to the wholesale consignees in each district, who will take delivery and arrange to distribute to the wholesalers in the districts in this Province'. But, Sir, in the announcement that was made in the Press about this arrangement, there were only the wholesale consignees, but the representative buyers were not there, and people deposited money and made selections. Subsequent to that, I find a notification issued by the Government in the Development Department, dated 10th November 1948. In that there was an amendment to this effect namely, that the 'wholesale consignee' means the person who receives a specified number of bales, etc. Therefore, Sir, in this note, we have got what is known as the representative buyers, being introduced. May I know from the Hon. Minister for Textiles how these people came in subsequently, who are going to appoint them and what are their functions?

"Then the other question is this. It is further stated in this note that the 'Government have addressed the Central Government for the increase of quota for this Province from 21,000 bales to 30,000 bales per month and as soon as the increased quantity is sanctioned, the number of wholesale and retail dealers will be increased correspondingly'. Are the additional people going to be appointed by inviting applications? These are the two questions I want to ask. Are the Government going to appoint these additional wholesale and retail dealers after announcement and after people have made money? Will not the ordinary people in the country naturally think that patronage is being distributed by the Government in this matter? I should like the Hon. Minister to throw some light on these two points, Sir."

SRI S. A. S. R. RAMANATHAM CHETTIYAR:—"தலைவர் அவர்களே, நூல் ஜவுளி விஷயமாக முதலில் கனம் மந்திரியவர்கள் சொல்லியதையும் மற்றும் எல்லோரும் பேசியதையும் கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தோம். நமது கனம் மந்திரியவர்களுக்கு நல்ல முறையில் ஜனங்களுக்கு சௌகரியம் செய்யவேண்டும் என்றும் **black market** இல்லாமலும் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று மனப்பூர்வமாக எண்ணம் இருக்கிறது. அது அப்படி இருக்கிறது என்பது எனக்கு நிச்சயமாகத் தெரியும். அதற்கு வேண்டி சர்க்கார் ஒரு விதமாக உத்தரவு போட்டாலும் பக்கத்திலுள்ளவர்கள் அதற்கு வேறு விதமாக அபிப்பிராயம் கொடுத்து அதன்படி அமல் நடத்துகிறார்கள். சிப்பந்திகள் இவ்விதம் வேறுவிதமாக அர்த்தம் கொள்வதால் ஜனங்களுக்கு கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்படுகின்றன. இதை சீர்திருத்தம் செய்யவேண்டியது கனம் மந்திரியவர்களுடைய பொறுப்பு.

"இரண்டாவதாக **blackmarket** கூடவே கூடாது. ஏற்கனவே கைநெசவுக் காரர்கள் கஷ்டமடைந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது 40, 80-ம் நம்பர் நூல்களை ரூ. 45-க்கு வாங்கி ரூ. 80-க்கு மேல் **blackmarket**-ல் விற்பது வருகிறார்கள். இன்னும் சில சமயங்களில் அதிக விலைக்குக் கூட கிடைக்கவில்லை. ஆகையால் முதலில் **blackmarket**-ஐ ஒழிக்கவேண்டும். இன்னும் நூல்களை அனுப்புவதில் கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்படுகின்றன. காஞ்சிவரத்திற்கு 80, 60 நம்பர் நூல்கள் வேண்டும். அங்கே 40, 30 நம்பர் நூல்களை அனுப்புகிறார்கள். அதேபோல் சீமாளாவிற்கு 40, 30 நம்பர் நூல்கள் தேவையாக இருக்குமேபோது 100, 80-ம் நம்பர் நூல்களை அனுப்புகிறார்கள். இவ்விதம் மாற்றியனுப்புவதால் ஜனங்களுக்கு கஷ்டம் ஏற்படுகிறது. இவ்விதமான கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்படுவது அதிகாரிகளால் தான். உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களை I.C.S. படித்தவர்களாகப் போடுவதால் அவர்களுக்கு வியாபாரத்தின் தோஷனை தெரியாது. அதனால் வியாபாரிகளும் ஜனங்களும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள்.

27th November 1948] [Sri S. A. S. Rm. Ramanatham Chettiyar]

வியாபாரிகளில் நான்கு பேர்கள் கொண்ட கமிட்டியை நியமித்தால் அவர்களுக்கு தொழிலின் அனுபவம் தெரியும். தொழில் அனுபவம் தெரிந்தவர்களை நியமித்தால் ஜனங்களுக்கும், வியாபாரிகளுக்கும் சௌகரியம் ஏற்படும். நமது நண்பர் வாலுஜா ரோடில் அநேகம் பேர்கள் நூல் வரப் போகிறது என்று காத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்று இப்பொழுதும் சொன்ன மாதிரி கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்படுகிறது. இன்னும் அதிகாரிகளைப் போய் நூல் வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டால் அவர்கள் ஜனங்களை மரியாதையாக நடத்துவது இல்லை. திருப்பி ஏதாவது கேட்டால் 'போ, ஜாய், போ' என்று அதட்டுகிறார்கள். அதிகாரிகள் ஜனங்களிடத்தில் அன்பாகப் பழகும்படி சொல்ல வேண்டும். அதிகாரிகள் ஜனங்களுக்கு நூல் கொடுத்தாலும் சரி கொடுக்காவிட்டாலும் சரி இனியமையாகப் பேசி அனுப்பவேண்டும். இன்னும் கூட்டுறவு ஸ்டோர்களுக்குப் போனால் கேட்கவே வேண்டாம். அவர்களுடைய அதிகாரம் சர்க்கார் அதிகாரங்களைவிட ஜாஸ்தியாக இருக்கிறது. மணி 8-5-க்குப் போனால் கிடையாது, வெளியே போ என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். முன்னால் போனால் மணி 4 ஆகவில்லை என்று அதிகாரம் செய்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால் இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் நிலைமையில் நூல் வாங்குவது என்பது ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்களால் ஜனங்களுக்கு சௌகரியம் கிடையாது. ஏனென்றால் அவர்களுக்குத்தான் பணம் கிடையாதே. சர்க்காரிடம் கடன் வாங்கிதானே நடக்கிறது? ஆகையால், அவர்கள் சரிவர நடக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். ஒரு விஷயம் சொல்லுகிறேன், Mr. Farookhi Sahib கவனிக்கவேண்டும். மவுண்ட் ரோடில் ஒரு கூட்டுறவு ஸ்டோர் இருக்கிறது. அங்கே போய் பார்த்தால் ஜவனிகள் சாக்கு மூட்டைகள் மாதிரி கிடக்கிறது. குப்பை கூளமாகப் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவைகளை யெல்லாம் எலிகள் கடித்து மோசமாகக் கிடக்கிறது. அவைகள் ஏன் அப்படி இருக்கிறது என்று கேட்டால் அவைகளையெல்லாம் கப்பலில் அனுப்பபோகிறோம் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்களுக்கு வியாபார அனுபவம் இல்லை. ஆனால் வியாபாரிகள் சர்க்கரை நன்றாக காப்பாற்றி வைப்பார்கள். கூட்டுறவுக்கும் வியாபாரத்திற்கும் ரொம்பப் தூரம். பெரிய பெரிய வியாபாரிகளால் நடத்த முடியாதபோது இந்த கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்கள் எப்படி நடத்த முடியும்? இன்னும் இவர்கள் டிபாசிட்டு ரூ. 2,000 கட்ட வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ஒரு wholesaler விற்குமல் அவனுக்கு ரூ. 3,000-க்கு 90 லாபம் கிடைக்கிறது. ஒரு retailer விற்குமல் நூற்றுக்கு ரூ. 6 வீதம் ரூ. 180 லாபம் கிடைக்கும். இன்னும் sales-tax போட்டிருப்பது ஒருவிதமாக இருக்கிறது. ஒட்டக் கூத்தன் பாட்டிற்கு இரட்டைத் தாப்பான் என்பதுபோல் ஒரு wholesaler அவனை retailer ஆக இருந்தால் அவன் இரண்டு வித sales-tax கட்ட வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. Wholesaler-க்கு ஒரு தடவையும் retailer sale-க்கு ஒரு தடவையும் கட்டவேண்டுமா? இரண்டுவித sales-tax எவ்விதம் வருகிறது என்பது தெரியவில்லை. அது சந்தேகமாக இருக்கிறது. எந்த விதத்திலும் இந்த blackmarket ஒழிய வேண்டும். அதை ஒழிக்க முதலில் வழி தேட வேண்டும். அதை ஆதரிக்கவே கூடாது. இப்பொழுது ரூ. 45-க்கு வாங்கும் நூல்களை ரூ. 80, 85 என்று வாங்கி வருகிறார்கள். ஆகையால், ஜனங்களுக்கு கஷ்டப்படாமல் சௌகரியமாக நூல் கிடைக்கும்படி செய்ய வேண்டும். ஜவனி லைசென்ஸ் எடுத்துக்கொள்வதாக இருந்தால் ரூ. 5,000 கட்டவேண்டியதில்லை ரூ. 2,000 கட்டினால் போதுமா. அதிகாரிகள் ஜனங்களை அனுசரிக்காததால் ஜனங்கள் ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். ரொம்பவும் திண்டாடுகிறார்கள். அதிகாரிகள் கனம் மந்திரியவர்களுடைய எண்ணத்தை மனப்பூர்வமாக நிறைவேற்றி ஜனங்களுக்கு எந்த விதத்திலும் சௌகரியமாக சிரமம் இல்லாமல் நூல் ஜவனி எல்லோருக்கும் கிடைக்கும்படி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I wish to submit that the piecegoods that we get from outside this Presidency are not at all suited to our requirements. All the surplus cloth from other Provinces is dumped in this Province and we are compelled to go in for it on account of the scarcity of cloth in this Province. Ordinarily we, in this Province, require 4½ to 7 cubits length of dhoties, but we get

[Sri M. D. T. Kumaraswami Mudaliyar.] [27th November 1948]

8, 9 and 10 cubits dhoties which are commonly used in the North. Only very few people in the southern districts wear these long dhoties. But the majority of the people in this Province do not wear such cloth, but still we have to purchase it, because there is no other go. I would, therefore, request the Government to consider this aspect of the matter and see that arrangements are made to import only dhoties between $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 cubits in length, so that the public need not unnecessarily purchase these lengthy dhoties and pay more money."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I would not have intervened and taken part in these discussions, but for the charge laid down by certain hon. Members that the previous Congress Ministry by its policy has retarded the progress of production of mill yarn and mill cloth. I have to say that it is not true, Sir. I should like to ask the Government whether those spindles which were expected to arrive were received by the Government, how many mills have been started and how many new companies were floated. What is the position with regard to those spindles now? Are they going to come at all? Where are they going to come from—From America, or England or Japan?"

" Apart from that, Sir, even if some mills were started, should not the quantity of yarn that the Madras Province gets from outside bear some ratio to the spindlage that was proposed to be supplied to this Province?"

" Now, Sir, both food and cloth are the two most important things which our country needs and which are indispensable to every man. The previous Congress Ministry had done its best to tackle these two problems and had laid down schemes and programmes with great ambition and if it had continued in office, it would have done something in that direction. Those schemes were undertaken according to the policy of the Congress and they were intended to give work to the millions of our agricultural labourers and other tillers of the soil in the villages, whose earning capacity is very small and to add something to their income in the lean months of the year. You know, Mr. President, that our country has increased in population, but that increase is mainly confined to big towns and cities. The population has not increased proportionately in the villages. Only in very few villages has the population increased during the last decade, but even if all the ryots and peasants get into the land and try their best to increase agricultural production, they cannot produce enough to feed the population, because labour is not readily available there.

4-15
p.m.

" Sir, our agriculture has become extensive but not intensive. We are trying to produce more but the result is not so. During weeding season for want of labour our agriculture is not properly done. Though the preparations are good, if weeding is not done we will have only grass and not food. That is the result and that is the kind of agriculture that is going on in the villages and in the country. What I appeal to the people is that this clamour

27th November 1948] [Sri N. Sankara Reddi]

for mill cloth must be given up. Already the export to Africa, Burma and Ceylon of our handloom cloth has been reduced or restricted. The weavers are going without work and they are not able to earn anything to make both ends meet. Sir, it is the duty of the Government to feed these weavers and the agricultural labourers. They must revigourate the village and give occupation to the agricultural labourers and the small peasant and fix him on to the land and to the production of cloth. Cloth is the only main industry after agriculture and the production of food must be correlated to the production of cloth. Then only, Sir, we will have peace in the country and the poor agricultural labourer will have the capacity to live in the village. Or else everything will be going wrong and we will be heading towards disaster. Cloth is not the only important thing, Sir. If our food production is not made sufficient, every year we will have to go to the Government of India with our bowl for a million tons of food. Wherefrom can the Government of India get if we are not able to produce the food in our own lands and in our own Province? This kind of agitation for more and more mill cloth and this kind of criticism and allegation that a certain Government retarded the progress of the production of mill cloth and yarn should be given up at least by the intelligent strata of people. With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat."

* SRI D. KRISHNAMURTI:—"Just as in the case of food, Sir, in the case of cloth also this Province is a deficit province and we have to depend upon the Bombay and other Provinces . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister for Industries how much time he would require for his reply?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Half an hour, Sir."

* SRI D. KRISHNAMURTI:—"The Hon. Minister has told us just now that calculating at the rate of 10 yards per capita, the 1939 basis, we want as much as 4 lakhs of bales of cloth."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I think he said 12 yards."

* SRI D. KRISHNAMURTI:—"But to-day's population must be considerably more and so the quantity required must be much more. We are now depending upon other parts of India for mill cloth. Sir, the controls were abandoned on the recommendation of Mahatma Gandhi and now things were fast improving in the country. When one wanted any cloth he could get it from the market if he paid the price for it. I cannot understand, Sir, why controls are again sought to be introduced by this new control order. One patent fact seems to be that out of 2,900 wholesale dealers about 600 get the patronage of the Government for selling and 2,300 wholesale dealers would be thrown out of employment. Sir, they have been merchants carrying on their

[Sri D. Krishnamurti] [27th November 1948]

trade for a number of years and there is no special reason why they should close their shops and why the patronage should be restricted to a considerably small number of people. In the matter of yarn the difficulty is much more.

“Coming to distribution of yarn by the co-operative societies, Sir, I know several handloom weavers who are suffering to-day for want of proper distribution of yarn. As a matter of fact in the East Godavari district in Chirala and Mangalagiri where there are two looms there is only one loom working now for want of supply of yarn. I cannot see, Sir, any advantage by the introduction of the system of control except it be that you keep these people at the mercy of a few merchants who are under the good books of the Government. No useful purpose would be served, Sir, at this stage to blame the previous Government for not producing adequate mill cloth, because these things cannot be done in an hour or two. By introducing this method of textile control we are going from bad to worse. I ask, Sir, do the Government really want this method because it will confer valuable advantages upon the people? Sir, by taking this step, the Government will create a serious situation in the country by swelling the numbers of unemployed, as now there are already people unemployed in the different walks of life, namely, the tappers, the agricultural labourers, etc. And we will add to this number the retail cloth merchants and the wholesale merchants and yarn merchants. So far as benefit to the consumer is concerned, it remains to be seen how far any person would be able to take advantage of it apart from the Government. Therefore, I strongly oppose the policy of control, now to be introduced by the Government as it will produce more harm than good and it is not to the best interests of the general body of public.”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“I think the bell may be rung so that the Hon. Minister may have a better audience.”

The bell was rung.

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“Mr. President, Sir, let me first thank the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and the other hon. Members of this House who have taken pains to study at such short notice the notes circulated and the helpful criticism that has been offered to the Government. I am indeed grateful to them for the various suggestions that they have made and for pointing out some of the difficulties that have been experienced in certain places in the Presidency and also generally about some of the alleged defects pointed out. I take this opportunity, Sir, of explaining to the hon. Members of the House the views of the Government in regard to this matter. Let me first take the question of controls about which the hon. Member who spoke last referred. It is not as though this Government or the Central Government are very fond of controls. No Government is fond of controls. They would like to avoid it if they can. But in the interests of society certain things have to be done by the State and this is one of them. I would like to bring to the

27th November 1948] [Sri H. Sitarama Reddi]

notice of the hon. Members, how the prices of yarn and cloth soared high before these controls were reintroduced by the Government. They went up in some cases to 300 per cent more than the pre-control period in the case of superfine cloth and I believe in some cases it went up to even 400 per cent. Even the coarse and medium counts which are ordinarily required by the common man went up by 40 to 60 per cent. Then, Sir, there was the criticism levelled against the Government, namely, that they did not realise their duty to the common man and people clamoured for controls and then the controls came. To-day there is again a criticism by some section of the people that there should be no control. This is a very difficult question and it is very difficult to please the various sections of the people. But so long as the Government feel that it owes a duty to the common man to see that he gets his cloth at a fair price, certain steps have to be taken and to-day the controls have been introduced to achieve this object.

“Coming to the question of licences, Sir, a certain criticism has been levelled that there were a large number of wholesalers and a large number of retailers and they have all been thrown out of employment. It looks from the remarks of hon. Members as though the Government had a desire to make them suffer. Let me assure hon. Members of the House, Sir, that the Government are as sympathetic as the hon. Members to the plight of the people who are thrown out of employment. It is not the desire of the Government to throw anybody out of employment if they can help it. But let me remind hon. Members, Sir, that 50 per cent of the yarn has been allotted to the Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies. Out of this 50 per cent the Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society was already handling about 25 per cent and what has been given is an additional allotment. That is, the Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society has been given another 25 per cent of the quota more than what was previously given. Therefore, the number of retailers or wholesalers in yarn who have been affected is comparatively very much less.

“Then I come to the question of cloth. About one-third of the provincial quota has been given to the co-operative societies to enable the Government to see that the sales are effected in various places where the societies are located—in rural areas also—at fair prices, so that they may act as a check upon private trade and also to see that the consumer gets the cloth at a fair and reasonable price. In fact, Sir, there was a criticism levelled against the Government that we did not entrust the entire dealing in cloth and yarn to co-operative societies and that we ought to have tried this as an experiment and given at least yarn fully to the co-operatives. They suggested that at least 50 per cent of the quota should be given to the co-operative societies. Knowing the hardships it would cause to trade and also knowing the difficulties of the co-operative societies in dealing with these large quantities of cloth and yarn, and after due consideration of certain other

[Sri H. Sitaraina Reddi] [27th November 1948]

aspects of the matter, the Government decided to entrust one-third of the cloth quota and 50 per cent of the yarn to co-operative societies. Naturally this led to the number of the original wholesalers and retailers coming down and this could not be helped. Sir, I should like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that this large increase in wholesalers and retailers took place during the last control period and I believe before the controls were introduced the number of wholesalers and retailers in the whole Province was very much less. And so the people who have been really in the trade for a long time and who have been affected by this control are not so considerable as it looks from the figures that have been furnished.

4-30
p.m.

"I have not got the exact figures with regard to the number of retailers just before the control. But, the number of retailers was not more than 850 or 900 in the whole Province. Anyhow, their number was not so much as now.

"Then, Sir, I feel that in a few months and indeed in a very short time, we can expect an additional allotment of cloth and yarn for the Madras Province. Representations have been made by this Government to the Government of India for this additional quota of cloth and yarn. When this additional quota is received, Government propose to increase the number of people who are to be licensed, whether it be for wholesale or retail. Therefore, every effort will be made to see that as few a people in the trade as possible are displaced, so long as they had behaved well in the past and are likely to behave well in the future.

"Then, Sir, the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition raised the question of production. He asked, 'Has the Government done anything to increase production?' For the information of this House, I may say that in this Province, most of the mills producing yarn have gone on to the third shift. There has been some trouble in the production of yarn in the Madras Presidency during the last few months. But, hon. Members will realise that adequate steps have been taken by this Government to relieve the handloom weavers. It will certainly be appreciated by hon. Members when I say that we are able to claim more yarn quota for this Province and that we have taken efforts to increase the production of cloth. We have been pressing on the Government of India that we should be allotted 30,000 bales, while allotment for this Province has been only 21,000 bales. We have made out a case for the increase in the quota of yarn based on the large number of looms that are working in this Province. I hope, Sir, that this increased quota of 30,000 bales will be received and that we will be able to increase the production of cloth in this Province.

"Then, Sir, some hon. Members mentioned that there was scarcity of certain finer counts. But, Sir, in the matter of yarn, I must point out that certain difficulties are found about the supply of finer counts of yarn. There is bound to be difficulty so long as the allocation of the finer counts of yarn to this Province is less than what we need. I should like at this stage to inform

27th November 1948] [Sri H. Sitarama Reddi]

this House that the Government of India propose to restrict the production of finer counts. That is one question that is being examined. In fact, there may be a decision by the Government of India to reduce the production of counts of 80s and above. As I have already said in my statement, counts of 100s are not at all coming in now. If we got a few bales, it was during the last control. That is a fact which the handloom industry should take note of and perhaps adjust itself to the new setup. It is natural that Government should be reducing the finer counts to help greater production of yarn. The production of finer counts depends always on foreign cotton. The prices of foreign cotton were so high that some mills had to give up production of finer varieties of yarn. There has been a strong feeling that in the production of finer varieties of cloth, there has been some laxity. But, Sir, if we are able to get adequate supplies of finer counts of yarn, we can produce such varieties. But, there is some difficulty in producing the finer counts of yarn. I should like those people who clamour for these finer counts that it is not as if the Government are unaware of their difficulties and that they do not want to help them. We have got our limitations in that we have to get our allocations made from the All-India Pool and the limited quantity that is made available to us is being distributed equitably to the various areas. We are trying to get more of these finer counts of yarn and to satisfy those people who clamour for those particular types as far as possible. But, I should state that in view of the possibility of the Government of India restricting the production of finer counts, it is better for the industry to adjust itself even from now and to weave the coarser counts, say, the 40s, 36s or the 19s, and so on, because adequate supplies of these types of yarn will be available. I was really surprised to hear the hon. Member from Tirunelveli when he said that they felt great difficulty in getting yarn to the mills in that area. In fact, I received a report from one district recently that in one or two taluks of that district, the movement of yarn has been rather slow but, that is because the weavers found that they are not able to sell the cloth that they had already produced out of the rougher counts of yarn supplied to them. Perhaps, the other reason why there has been some difficulty felt in certain areas is the smuggling that was taking place for some time into the Hyderabad area. That is one of the reasons that was responsible for the non-availability of cloth. But, with the introduction of controls and with stricter supervision over distribution, I am sure, the difficulty will disappear day by day. We are taking all steps to see that smuggling which is likely to take place is prevented as far as possible.

“Then, Sir, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition spoke about khaddar. Yes, Sir, we have been pushing through the Firka Development Scheme in order to help production of khaddar as much as possible. I do not know the amount of yardage that is there but I know that there is a good quantity of yarn which has not yet been converted into cloth. Sir, we have been finding some difficulty in some places to get the weavers to

[Sri H. Sitarama Reddi] [27th November 1948]

weave hand-spun yarn because the weaver is rather reluctant to weave hand-spun yarn into cloth and we are persuading the weavers to weave cloth out of hand-spun yarn. During the last control period, there were certain areas wherein the handloom weavers were not given any supply of mill-yarn but they were made compulsorily to weave cloth from hand-spun yarn. I do not know whether such a need is felt at the present moment but if any such need arises, I am sure, we will be able to get a few weavers exclusively to weave this hand-spun yarn, perhaps compensating them properly for the trouble that they have to undergo, because, these weavers may not be able to earn as much as they earn by weaving mill yarn."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Compensate from public revenues?"

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—"It will be shifted on to the consumer."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"That is a question that will have to be tackled."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"May I know why they find it difficult to utilize the hand-spun yarn?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—"It is not quite so uniform."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"Sir, difficulty has been felt in persuading some of those people to weave hand-spun yarn because it is much easier for them to weave cloth out of mill-yarn and also for weaving mill-yarn, the payment is made on the yardage."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I wish all hon. Members will wait till the Hon. Minister finishes his reply."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"Then, Sir, my hon. Friend asked that when machines are available, why should we encourage hand-made cloth. For the information of the hon. Member, I may say that even in England—perhaps he knows about England and Scotland much more than I do—there is the production of a particular type of hand-spun and hand-woven cloth that is very much fancied. It is not as if there is no scope for hand-spun and hand-woven cloth. There is always scope for particular types of hand-woven clothes in every country and in every part of the world. In spite of the machines that we may get, there will be scope for hand-spun and hand-woven, fine varieties of cloth. I wish my hon. Friend sees some fine varieties of khadi that is available in Chicacole and in certain special areas of the Vizagapatam district where beautiful varieties of khadi are produced; which are much more durable than the ordinary khaddar. Therefore, this cloth woven by the hand has always got a pride of place in spite of the fact that machines may come in large numbers. So, Sir, there is no need to discourage or eliminate production of khaddar as was suggested by the hon. Member."

27th November 1948]

[Sri H. Sitarama Reddi]

“ Then, Sir, another question was raised as to why we should not make an attempt to make this Province self-sufficient in the production of mill cloth. Sir, we have specialized in this Province the production of handloom cloth. As I have already said, our production of handloom cloth is very considerable. It comes to 288,000 bales per year. If each Province goes on thinking in terms of self-sufficiency then, who is to buy our handloom cloth? It is a question that has to be borne in mind. Therefore, there cannot be the question of self-sufficiency for a particular Province. Now, we must think in terms of national and international interests and in terms of the Indian Union as a whole. I am sure my hon. Friend will appreciate this. We have got also to exchange our handloom goods with those of other Provinces. If we work out this policy of self-sufficiency as my hon. Friend suggested, then it is likely that other Provinces may start their own production of handloom cloth with the result that a large number of handloom weavers who produce specialized varieties of cloth in this Province will be thrown out of employment. That is one fact which I would like the hon. Member to bear in mind. The principle of self-sufficiency cannot be applied to small areas, say for each district or for each Province, because this principle of self-sufficiency will be very difficult to work out in practice. I therefore feel that there must be a sense of ‘ Give and Take ’.

“ Another criticism that was levelled was, why should this Province be saddled with this large amount of handloom cloth while cheaper mill cloth is made available in other Provinces. It is true that during the last controls, our quota of mill cloth was about four yards per individual and the rest of the requirements had to be made up by handloom cloth. This question we have now taken up with the Government of India and have suggested to them that the handloom cloth produced in this Province must be allowed to be exported to other Provinces in certain proportions that quantity should be replaced by mill cloth from other Provinces. I hope the Government of India will agree to our proposal that at least fifty per cent of the handloom cloth produced in this Province should be allowed to be exported to other Provinces and it should be replaced by mill cloth so that the ordinary man here may be enabled to get cheaper cloth. That is one of the things which the Madras Government have taken up with the Government of India and they are trying to persuade the Government of India to agree to this proposal. These are questions which we have still to consider. No permanent allocation of cloth and yarn have been made to this Province as yet and when permanent allocations are made, I am sure, all these aspects will be taken into consideration.

“ One hon. Member put a question as regards the basis on which this quota of 12 yards was arrived at. The answer is this. This quota was arrived at by the Government of India, on the basis of the pre-war consumption of the various Provinces. As I have already stated, the present proposal has not yet been finalized, and allocations have not yet been finally decided. But it has been proposed by the Government to allocate cloth on a uniform basis

[Sri H. Sitarama Reddi]

[27th November 1948]

of 18 yards for each person in urban areas, and 12 yards in rural areas. I believe this allocation will give us a few more bales than what we have been receiving hitherto. It has been accepted by the Government of India that there should not be any difference between one Province and another, but there should be a difference between the urban and the rural areas, because it is said that the urban people are likely to use more cloth than the rural population. It is on the basis of this calculation that the Government of India have fixed the future mill cloth allocations for our Province. It will also depend on the percentage of the handloom cloth that the Government of India would agree, to be sent to other Provinces from ours.

“ My hon. Friend Mr. Farookhi Sahib raised two other points. Where did these representative buyers and wholesale consignees come into the picture? He felt as though some great wrong had been done, and somebody has been taken by surprise. But let me draw his attention to the statement that I made in the Legislative Assembly, where I said that the question relating to the number of dealers, and the agencies for the procurement of cloth was still under consideration. But the fact that a representative buyer and a wholesale consignee have come into the picture, does not in any way alter the structure that we have had so far. These representative buyers were in existence during the previous controls, and they were doing the functions of a procurement agency for selling cloth and yarn from the various mills, such as in Ahmedabad or Bombay. I think there were about 47 persons during the last control. Now there are about 36 persons who go about and buy from the mills, the allotted quota, keep them in the godowns, and then move them on to the various districts, in railway wagons. If these people are not there, it is not possible for the wholesalers to procure their quotas. They could not go to the various places, and in fact it was their desire that there should be this system of representative buyers going to the various mills, to secure their quotas. So, Sir, these representative buyers were necessary for the smooth and swift working of the system, and for facilitating easy movement for equitable distribution. They were already there in existence during the previous controls, and what we have done now is to simply continue that precedent.

“ As for these wholesale consignees, it was felt that if we had one such person in each district, who could receive the entire quota for the district in wagon loads, it would facilitate the quick movement of cloth. Otherwise there would be a lot of delay in that the representative buyer would have to consign to the various wholesalers in small lots, and there would be the difficulty of providing adequate wagon facilities. It was felt that if there was at least one man who could receive the quota on behalf of each district, the entire quota of the allotted number of bales, and consigned to him by the representative buyers, he could easily take these bales, and without breaking them, on the basis of the number of bales allotted to each wholesaler, distribute them to these wholesalers.

27th November 1948] [Sri H. Sitarama Reddi]

Of course, he is allowed a small margin of about 0.75 per cent. There have been complaints that this is a very small margin of profit, and therefore it is very difficult to secure people to do this job. It is true that these wholesale consignees were appointed by the Provincial Textile Commissioner in consultation with the Collectors, and neither the legislators nor the people were consulted in this. But let me assure this House, that the consumer is not going to be affected by this in any way. It was the interests of the consumers that this system had to be introduced, so that the distribution of cloth may be quickened. I am saying once again that there is no question of patronage at all, since the Provincial Textile Commissioner has felt some difficulty in securing persons for this job. I do not know; whether even those that have been secured now, will, after some experience, stick on the job. At present, a few people have agreed to do this; and I hope they will help to quicken the process of cloth distribution, both in the stages of receipt and dispersal."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Are these people to be appointed in all the districts? "

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir. Then, Sir, a question was raised by another hon. Member that there has been some communal representation in this matter. I may assure this House, that there is no communal representation in trade. I think this is one of the points which have to clear up. I may tell the hon. Leader of the Opposition that so far I have not received any complaints that any discrimination has been made. If any case of discrimination is brought to my notice, I shall see that justice is done. I hope no injustice has been done to any person on the ground that he belongs to a particular community. Government do not look at this problem from the communal point of view, and I therefore appeal to hon. Members not to think in terms of communalism in trade.

The whole question was left to the Collectors of the various districts, and may that be in some cases they have made some mistakes without perhaps knowing all the facts. I have been receiving a few complaints here and there, that some injustice has been done. And these, I am forwarding to the respective Collectors, asking them for the grounds or the reasons why a particular person has not been chosen. We shall try to inquire into these matters, and do our best to see that no injustice is done."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I said, Sir, that many Muslims that approached me assured that there was no discrimination on account of community. I only wanted that to be brought to the notice of Government."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Have any concessions been given to the Harijan people? "

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I thought that this question also will be raised by some hon. Member. Now that

[Sri H. Sitarama Reddi] [27th November 1948]

it has been raised, it is my duty to answer it. During the previous controls there was some complaint that Harijans did not get any opportunities of coming into the trade. So, certain orders were passed by the Government enabling some of them to come into the trade. Now, the various Collectors have seen to it that such of those as were there during the previous controls, have been given an opportunity to come into the trade. We have been trying to secure as many of those as were in the textile trade during the previous controls, in as large a number as possible, since a greater number of bales of cloth are likely to move in. We shall also see to it that there is as much absorption of these people as possible, leaving no room for complaint that some of them have been thrown out of their own trade.

My hon. Friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao raised a question as to the slow movement of cloth in these few months. He pointed out certain figures from the statement that has been circulated. But I may recall that as soon as this new set-up of things was brought into existence, we had the Hyderabad troubles, which resulted in the movement of cloth from Ahmedabad and Bombay being slowed down. Attempts were made, however, to move these cloth bales by steamer, but there was some difficulty felt in the matter. Naturally therefore, the movement was not very satisfactory in these few months. But now the position has changed very much, and I expect, that with our representative buyers and wholesale consignees, the allotments that are made to this Province will be made available to the dealers as quickly as possible. I may once again assure hon. Members that all this will not certainly affect the price to be paid by the consumer.

Mr. Suryanarayana Rao raised some points as regards the working of these co-operative societies in these few months, and the manner in which they have discharged the responsibility that has been thrust upon them, in the matter of the distribution of cloth and yarn. Originally we thought that with the first allotment of cloth and yarn, the new people that have been selected will come into the trade, but there has been some delay due to the extension of time by the Government for the unstamped cloth to be sold. But yet, on the whole, I should say these co-operative societies have done well, and have dispersed the cloth to the various districts satisfactorily; they have also taken care to see that people visit these societies frequently. All this has had a very good effect on the price structure, so that even people who were selling unstamped cloth at high prices have reduced these prices very much. On the whole I should say they have done well. They have dispersed the cloth to the various districts. I have been getting reports that people have taken kindly to the sales societies. It has had very good effect on the price structure. The price of cloth has gone down due to the movement of cloth by co-operative societies. Recently the Registrar of Co-operative Societies held a conference of the co-operative wholesale stores and certain suggestions have been made to modify the quota of cloth to be moved from outside the Province. They have also suggested, in view of

27th November 1948] [Sri H. Sitarama Reddi]

the fact that they have been receiving more cloth than was originally contemplated, that they would like to give up the quotas for November and December. From January onwards the percentage of cloth to be taken by the societies from outside the Province will vary. On the whole the societies will continue to distribute the cloth to the same extent as before. I hope, Sir, I have been able to cover most of the points raised by hon. Members.

"Sir, the question of the export of handloom cloth is a matter for the Government of India. The Government of Madras have been taking an active interest in the welfare of the handloom weavers. We have been able to persuade the Government of India a few months ago and get a special allotment for export of handloom cloth. The quota was the largest that was ever given to the co-operative societies. The Government of Madras have always been trying to help the handloom weavers in exporting their cloth outside. Recently certain representations were made by the Handloom Weavers' Organizations and the handloom weavers themselves that they must be given special facilities for export of cloth in view of the accumulation of certain types of cloth. We have taken up the matter with the Government of India. This Government is fully aware of all the difficulties of the handloom weavers and the needs of the handloom weavers. We are constantly watching the interests of these people. Every effect will be made by this Government so far as it lies with them, to take care of the interests of these people."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"As there is no definite motion before the House, I declare that this motion is talked out."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Sir, I should like that we have a discussion on the educational policy of the Government at the earliest time possible, if possible after question time on the first day of the next session. We are adjourning to-day and the matter is an important one."

* MR. PRESIDENT :—"I hope the Government will consider the request of the Leader of the Opposition and allot a day for the subject as early as they possibly can."

"Before I adjourn the House, I should like to say a few words to the House. In my opinion the session which has just now concluded or is about to conclude is one of the very important ones we have so far had, because the House has now helped to put on the statute book some very important measures which, I am sure, will be very much appreciated by the whole country."

"Of all the measures which we have just now passed, three are very important, namely, the Zamindari Abolition Bill, the Public Libraries Bill and perhaps also the Aliyasantana Bill. Of these three, undoubtedly the most outstanding is the Zamindari Abolition Bill. Myself coming from a zamindari area and as a lawyer having had very much to do with the litigation under the Estates Land Act, I should like to mention my reactions to the Bill and I think it would not be misunderstood as entrenching upon

[Mr. President] [27th November 1948]

things which are not the special duty of the President to do. I heartily congratulate the Government and especially the Hon. the Revenue Minister on this achievement. This is an epoch-making measure which is almost revolutionary in its nature and intended to benefit a large mass of people and I am sure will rank as the most outstanding achievement of the Ministry. In fact, I do not think I will be wrong if I say, taking the history of not only this Legislature but also of all the legislatures that went before, there have never been any measure passed by them which could rank with this either in its importance or in its effect on the country. I therefore think that the Government deserve all praise for having pushed it through with single-minded devotion and without avoidable delay.

“The main purpose of the Bill is to bring the land tenure in zamindari areas on a line with that in ryotwari areas and thus help in improving the economic condition of the zamin peasantry. It cannot, of course, be said, that the Bill is perfect in every way and I do not think even the Government make that claim. There are no doubt important defects but in a measure of this kind, it is not possible to expect perfection straightaway especially when time is an important factor to be considered. The Province, as it is constituted to-day, consists of two well-defined portions, namely, the ryotwari area and the zamin area. Ryotwari area must also at one time have formed part of the dominions of Indian Rulers, but on political grounds they were liquidated and Government took over direct control and the administration of such areas. The rest of the area was allowed to continue as zamin area also on political grounds. If you look at them from the point of view of the ryot, the difference is striking and very disadvantageous to the zamin ryot. The land revenue is a tax whether it is paid by the ryotwari ryot or a zamin ryot. Whereas, in one case, it becomes public property and is intended to go back to the public by way of expenditure on various public services; in the other cases, it was converted into the private property of a private individual subject only to a demand from the State. This difference is indefensible. The attempt therefore to abolish it is laudable. I have no doubt, this reform will improve the condition of the zamin ryot. It will put him in direct relation to the State, it will give him the same facilities for redress of grievances as are being enjoyed by his brother in the ryotwari area, put an end to the ruinous litigation in courts to which he is now subjected and above all, it will enormously help his representative in the legislature to function effectively. I know from experience that such a representative is powerless now to make the Government do anything. Whether it be the repair of an irrigation source, fixing of a proper rate of rent or even proper survey and demarcation, the remedy lies only under the Estates Land Act in courts of law and I know of many cases in which ryots put themselves to ruinous expenditure and received no benefit ultimately. It is hoped all these things will disappear and the Executive will hereafter function as impartially, quickly and effectively as they are supposed to in ryotwari areas.

27th November 1948] [Mr. President]

“ While on this point, I may say a few words on compensation as well. An idea is expressed in this House and elsewhere that the ryot who is to be benefited should be made to pay. I have no hesitation in saying that there is absolutely no reason or justification for this. What little I have said above is enough to bring home to everyone that the troubles which the zamin ryot has been suffering all these days were not of his making but were forced on him by outside agency. They were solely due to an indefensible Act of State. If the State now recognizes its mistake and corrects it, it is doing nothing more than what is justly due to the ryot. It is in no sense conferring any benefit on the ryot but only removing an injustice to which he had been subjected for ages and to ask him to pay for such a thing is only adding insult to injury. The State will be perfectly justified in spending its funds for such a purpose. But let us examine the question further and see if, in fact, anyone else than the zamin ryot himself is paying for this relief.

“ The Government are sure to get an income from the estates. Though the amount of the income is disputed, the Rs. 49 lakhs which represents the peshkush is still there. Can it not be construed that the Government is paying this compensation from out of this amount. If the Government borrows the amount, they can repay it in instalments from this sum. If the Government set apart this Rs. 49 or Rs. 50 lakhs a year for at least 20 years—I do not think it will work for a longer period—the amount can be repaid. But in fact the Government is sure to make a profit and there can be no doubt that really nobody else but the zamin ryot pays for his own emancipation. Even if we take it that the net result will be that the Government cannot get anything more even in the future, the Government will be justified if it uses the whole amount for compensation. The amount of compensation now being paid can be considered to be repaid from this amount. The Government will be perfectly justified in losing this income and using it for such a laudable object intended to improve the economic condition of two-thirds of the ryot population, even as they are foregoing Rs. 17 crores for prohibition and spending enormous sums on such unremunerative but nation-building services as Education, Health, Sanitation and Communications. The theory therefore that the whole nation is paying for this reform has no basis at all to stand. While on this I may say another word. The Government will be well advised if they expedite the payment of compensation even in their lifetime. New constitution may come into force very soon and none can prophecy who will be in charge of the future destinies of this Province. Therefore the reputation of the Government is at stake and the sooner it is done the better. The ideal of the Congress is not to impoverish any particular class of society but to raise all classes to the proper level. It would therefore be consistent with Congress ideals if the present Government devises methods to see that this measure is fully implemented even during their own lifetime.

“ Unfortunately, the cordial atmosphere of the House was disturbed while discussing the amendment relating to the rules to be framed under the Bill. The original Bill provided that the

[Mr. President] [27th November 1948]

rules should be approved by both the Houses, but was changed in the Select Committee. The Government of India Act has no doubt made a difference between the two Houses in some respects. But short of that, I am particularly anxious that nothing should be done to injure the prestige of either House. Both the Houses are but two limbs of one whole organization. I daresay that they will be ready and willing to co-operate with the Government in every way and help them in going forward with their programmes. Anything which gives rise to a sense of inferiority or superiority between them should be scrupulously avoided. Rivalry between the two Houses should be wholly deplored. Bills, resolutions and various other motions have to come before both the Houses and the present Bill itself was approved by both the Houses. While so, why should the rules alone be excluded from this House? Why should such a change be made in the Select Committee? The result of the change has been that this House was obliged to vote against its own prestige. This should be avoided at all costs. I have no objection whatsoever to the Government carrying forward its policy with the help of its majority. It cannot function otherwise. Even the Opposition cannot object to it. But when it comes to the prestige of the House, I think the Members of this House on the Committee and on the Cabinet should be particularly careful to see it is not in any way affected. I quite see the anxiety of the Hon. Revenue Minister that the Bill should become law without any delay. Utter confusion prevails in the zamindaris and the sooner the Bill becomes law the better both for the zamindars and the ryots. But at the same time, I wish this difference was not allowed to creep in. The Hon. Minister said that personally he did not like the change. I wish he had brought forward suitable amendments in the Assembly and got it through along with other amendments and I am sure he would have done so if his attention had been drawn to it. I am sure that all this confusion was not deliberate or intended by anyone. This aspect seems to have escaped the notice of everyone—Select Committee members, Members who are on the Cabinet and perhaps myself. When the Hon. Minister promised to rectify it in one of the ways suggested by him, I think the Opposition ought to have been satisfied. I am sure the Government is anxious to take the whole House with them including the Opposition. The fact that in spite of their assured majority the Hon. Ministers take great pains to explain things and convince hon. Members is proof positive that they do not want to rule by majority. That is as it should be. Otherwise it is no democracy. If this is conceded, the Opposition should be ready to understand the Government's difficulty and meet them half-way and not non-co-operate with them especially in a matter like this which seems to have escaped the notice of everybody.

“The other two Bills passed in this session are also important in improving the social conditions of society. The Libraries Bill is a good one; the library movement, we all know, is a very good movement; and the whole world owes a great deal to this movement; but I wish there were no separate organizations set up in

27th November 1948] [Mr. President]

this Bill. Committees of local bodies, with co-opted members, including ladies of course, would have been enough. A separate organization means a separate office, a separate establishment for management and collection, and it may eat away the meagre amounts at their disposal. Again, I wish the surcharge also was avoided. It may become not only unpopular but very difficult of collection and possibly expensive, especially in the rural areas.

"I hope that the Government will see that this Library Bill is fully implemented in all its aspects, and I sincerely trust that it would help in removing illiteracy in this country.

"The other Bill, the Aliyasantana Bill, is intended to improve the social condition of a particular class of people, and I hope that will also conduce to the well-being of that particular community and would be of great benefit to an important section of the population of this Province.

"I intended to say something about the Bigamy Marriages Bill; but that Bill has been put off.

"I thank the hon. Members including the Opposition for their great diligence and devotion to duty which have been expressed in so many ways in this House. I hope the remarks which I made just now and which I thought I ought to make, especially about the Government, will be taken in the spirit in which they were intended, and I sincerely trust such instances will not be repeated in the future. I may just say how anxious I am to retain the good relations between the two Houses. I have always refrained from referring to the Assembly as the 'Lower House' though perhaps we may be justified in calling it the 'Lower House'; according to the Constitution. I have always called it the 'Other House' and I hope they will also do the same thing with regard to us. I am anxious to retain the good relations between the two Houses, and I request the hon. Members of the other House will take my remarks in the spirit in which they were intended; and I also feel that the Hon. Minister will bring in another measure to remove the defects pointed out."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Sir, with your permission, I should like to make a statement. The Opposition thanks you very much for the observations you have made regarding the protection of the prestige of this House. Sir, in a democratic form of Government, the opposition is as necessary as the Government itself; and as I have said previously I do not want to flatter you you are an ornament to this House and both sections of the House are proud of you and I trust your advice will be valued. Sir, all men in public life including Members of Government and Members of the Opposition are always on their trial. The Houses of Legislature is the forum in which the Government are tried. If this House is to function efficiently, its usefulness should not be impaired. And I, as Leader of the Opposition, am very firm in the position that anything that touches prejudicially the right, the privilege, the prestige and the usefulness of this House will not be tolerated by the Opposition. Now, I want to assure you, Sir, as you have been very unhappy on account of our non-co-operation

[Dr. V. K. John] [27th November 1948]

in respect of the Zamindari Bill—a very important Bill—I want to assure you that the cordial relationship between the Government and the Opposition will remain and will continue, and we shall forget all that has happened; and we hope the Minister will bring forward a measure to amend section 40. I want also to draw the attention of the public to the fact that although we had given notice of many amendments to the sections following section 40 and we did not move them; the public did not suffer on that account because in the general discussion stage where the Deputy President gave us very good opportunity for a full and free discussion, we discussed everything fully and expressed our points of view on the amendments, which we intended to move in the House. Therefore, our points were not lost at all and even if we had moved the amendments, we would have simply repeated and reiterated what we said during the general discussion. Therefore, nothing was lost as far as public interest was concerned but one thing I regret and I regret very much. It was my intention and the intention of my friends also belonging to the Opposition to pay a very high compliment to the Hon. Minister for Revenue, Sri Kala Venkata Rao for his devotion, his thoroughness, his sincerity and the high level of discussions we had, and also the manner in which he piloted that Bill through this House. We wanted to give him that compliment which I do now. He is an ornament to any Government; and the Government ought to be proud of Sri Kala Venkata Rao. Although he is not a lawyer, he knew the facts and the law so well that we got all assistance from him in the discussion of the Bill. Of course, we did not agree with him in respect of many provisions of the Bill. But we are all here to express our differences of opinion and our points of view. And I am glad to find that you agreed in this measure with the Government; and perhaps if you were a Member of Government, you would have had a struggle with Sri Kala Venkata Rao to take his place in the piloting of this Bill. Sir, we forget all controversy when a Bill is passed. Actually, we are not an irresponsible Opposition. In two measures, we gave our blessings—to the Library and the Aliyasantana Bills—even as we fought with Mr. Madhava Menon on the Agriculturists Relief Amendment Bill. As far as I am concerned, Sir, I am friends with all the Ministers; I do not even mister any one of them. But friendship does not count in this House at all. I am very chummy with Mr. Madhava Menon, but when the measure comes up and wherever there is to be criticism, there is neither friendship nor enmity as far as the Opposition is concerned; we discharge our duties without fear or favour. And although the Bill is passed, which according to you and many others, will be of great benefit to the people—I mean the Zamindari Abolition Bill—we do not regret it. You know, as a lawyer, we do not look at the result of the case; we argue the case and leave the responsibility for decision to courts. So, in this case, the responsibility is that of the House, and the House passed it. We welcome it; and always whenever a measure is passed, even like the Prohibition Bill, what the Opposition should do is to be do their best to implement the Bill and to assist the Government, although it might be that we opposed it when the measure was

27th November 1948] [Dr. V. K. John]

originally brought forward. I want to assure you, Sir, and the hon. Members on the other side that the Opposition is quite at peace with the Government, our relations are quite as cordial as before and we have forgotten the incident except that we hope that the Government will not repeat this and there will not be in any measure of the future any discrimination shown between the other House and this House—I do not want also to call it the 'Lower House.—the Assembly and the Council. If that is done, we shall not fight them; but if that is not done, we will fight them. But, as I said, I am quite sure this will not be repeated. As you said, Sir, it was a slip. Sir, you are a good judge of what happened. Nobody's attention was attracted to it and it was a mistake; I am quite sure Government will rectify that mistake and the Leader of the House must be anxious to keep the prestige of the House even more than the Leader of the Opposition.

"I thank you, Sir, very much for intervening in this matter."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The House stands adjourned *sine die*."

IV.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

G.O. No. 1047, Food, dated 19th November 1948, regarding reconstitution and revival of District Food Committees and Rationing Advisory Committees.

வாய்மையே வெல்லும்
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

[27th November 1948]

APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 155 asked by Sri S. B. Adityan at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 27th November 1948, page 709 supra.]

Old name of the municipality or
panchayat board.

New name of the municipality
or panchayat board.

Municipalities—

1 Negapatam	Nagapattinam.
2 Conjeeveram	Kancheepuram.
3 Trichinopoly	Tiruchirappalli.
4 Bezwada	Vijayavada.
5 Mayavaram	Mayuram.
6 Cocanada	Kakinada.
7 Ellore	Eluru.

Panchayats—

1 Keelamangalam (in Madura district).	Jayamangalam.
2 Kivalur (in Tanjore district) ..	Kilvolur.
3 Shiyali (in Tanjore district) ..	Sirkali.
4 Tiruvidamarudur (in Tanjore district).	Tiruvidaimarudur.
5 Adirampatnam (in Tanjore district).	Adirampattinam.
6 Anathandavapuram (in Tanjore district)	Anandatandavapuram.
7 Shermadevi (in Tirunelveli district).	Cheran Madevi.
8 Bikshandavarkoil (in Tiruchirappalli district).	Bichandarkovil.
9 Tiruturaipundi (திருத்துரைப் பூண்டி) (in Tanjore district).	Tiruturaipundi (திருத் துரைப்பூண்டி).
10 Arantangi (அறந்தாங்கி) (in Tanjore district).	Arantangi (அறந்தாங்கி).
11 Topputhurai (தோப்புத்துரை) (in Tanjore district).	Topputhurai (தோப்புத் துரை).
12 Mahadanapuram (மஹாதான புரம்) (in Tiruchirappalli district).	Mahadanapuram (மஹா தானபுரம்).